

One million people made jobless in past 12 months

One million Britons lost their jobs in the year to mid-March, the first such rise in any year since the war. The jobless total reached a seasonally-adjusted 2.38 million in March, or 9.9 per cent of the workforce. The TUC announced plans for a Liverpool to London protest walk, reminiscent of the Jarrow march of the 1930s.

TUC plans Jarrow-style march

By David Blake
Economics Editor

More than a million people were added to the unemployment queues in the year to mid-March, the first such rise in any 12-month period since the war. Although the figures show some signs that the rate of increase is slowing down, there was a storm of protest from trade unions and the Opposition.

The Trades Union Congress is to sponsor a month-long march from Liverpool to London during May, aimed at highlighting the plight of the unemployed. Five hundred people are to be sponsored in the protest which is aimed at evoking memories of the Jarrow march of the 1930s.

Adult unemployment went up by nearly 77,000 in March, pushing the total to 2.38 million or 9.9 per cent of the workforce after seasonal adjustment. The increase is roughly the same as that recorded in February.

Favourable seasonal factors and school leavers getting jobs meant that the total number of people registered as being out of work went up by only 21,000 in the month to mid-March, to give an overall total of 2,484,712, or 10.3 per cent of all workers.

There are now roughly 10 unemployed people for every vacant job in the country. No part of the country has escaped the rising toll of factory closures and lay-offs, but the worst hit area has been the West Midlands, traditionally the heartland of British industry. Over the past year, unemployment has doubled to 11.6 per cent, a reflection of

the fact that manufacturing has borne the brunt of the recession. Of the 11 regions into which the United Kingdom is divided, seven have unemployment rates in double figures. The worst are Northern Ireland, with 16.4 per cent of the total workforce unemployed, and Wales and the North of England, where unemployment is 12.9 per cent.

The unemployment rate among men is much higher. Just over one man in five in Northern Ireland has no job, and the unemployment rate for men in the North of England is 15.5 per cent.

Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, said that the rise in unemployment was the result of the "ruinous folly" of the Government's policies. In the House of Commons, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, said the Government was "deeply concerned" by the level of unemployment and defended plans that unemployed young people should be offered the chance of military training.

He was attacked fiercely by Labour MPs. Mr Eric Varley, Opposition employment spokesman, said that government policy was in ruins.

Government hopes rest on the fact that latest figures confirm recent signs that the number of unemployed is growing less quickly than it was during the depths of the winter, when an extra 100,000 a month were joining the dole queues.

But although things are not getting worse quite as quickly as they were, the unemployment prospects still look bleak for the year ahead. The latest figures suggest that unemploy-

ment is well on course to go above three million during 1982 if schoolleavers are included. Few economists expect the number to drop below 2.5 million before 1984, and most independent forecasters expect it to stay above three million, possibly even rising steadily, until 1985. But reports of a Treasury forecast of 3.7 million unemployed have been firmly denied.

Long-term prospects are made worse by the fact that recorded unemployment figures do not show in full the extent of the jobs crisis which has hit the British economy in recent years.

A total of 1.2 million people are now covered by special government measures designed to hold down the level of unemployment, most of them on special short-term working schemes.

Without these measures, the Government estimates that the number of unemployed would have been about 370,000 higher. Other workers have dropped off the register altogether, in despair about their prospects of obtaining a job.

Taken together, these two factors will make it much harder to convert any improvement in the labour market into lower unemployment figures. But yesterday's figures show that such an improvement is in any case a long way off.

The seasonally adjusted number of vacancies fell fractionally for the second successive month, cancelling out tentative signs of improvement recorded in January. The number of notified vacancies, which provides a good guide to the labour market, halved over the last 12 months.

'Once and for all' effort on EEC fish

From Michael Horsby
Brussels, March 24

EEC heads of government today called on their agriculture and fisheries ministers to hold a special meeting in Brussels on Friday in an attempt to resolve the Community's six-year-old dispute over fishing policy "once and for all".

Announcing this after the EEC's spring summit meeting, Mr Andries van Agt, the Dutch Prime Minister, who chaired the discussions, declared that there was "a clear political will to establish a common fisheries policy".

The other EEC leaders, including Mrs Margaret Thatcher, agreed that the will was there, but they were unable to offer any concrete evidence that the chances of reaching agreement on Friday will be any better than on previous occasions.

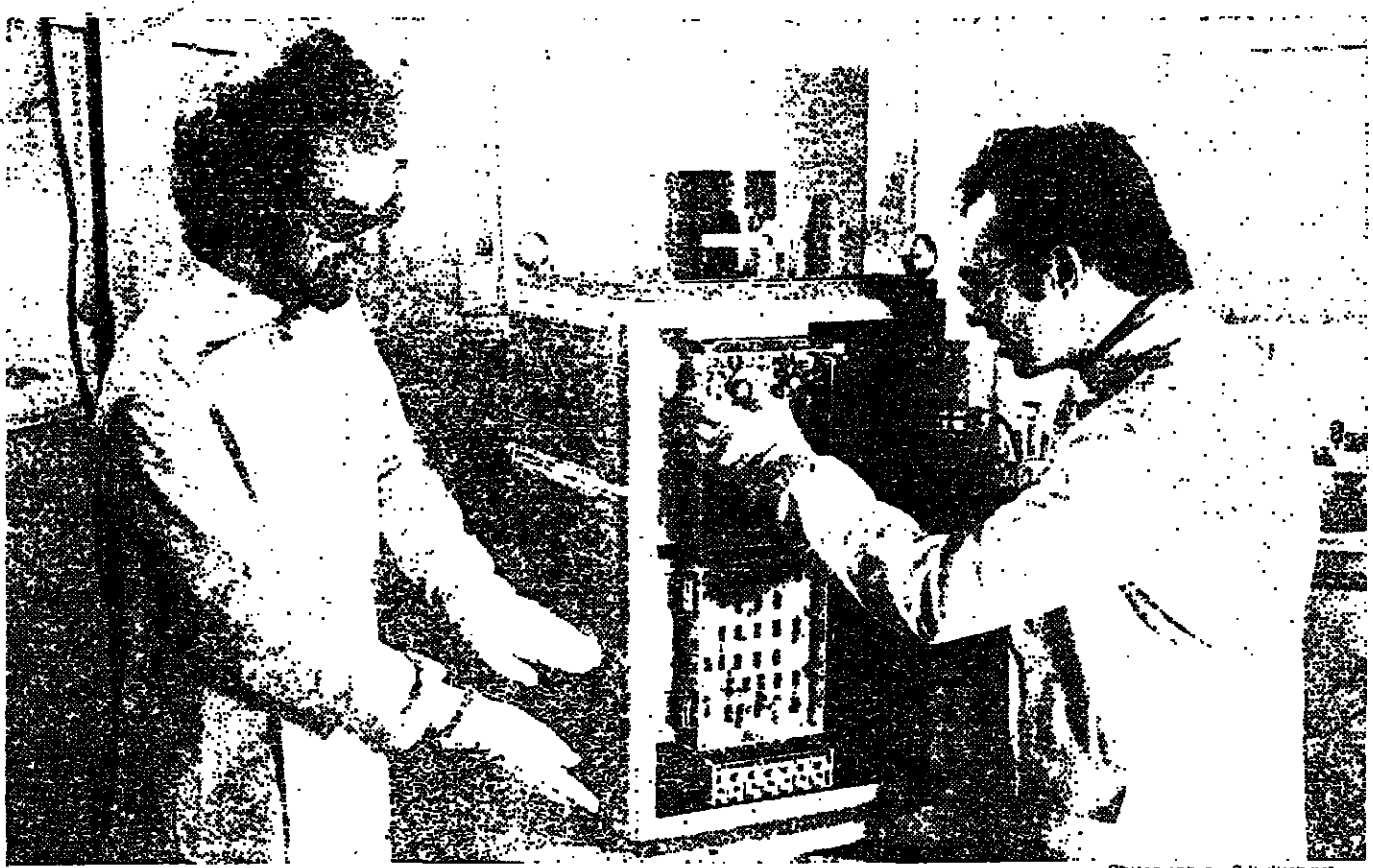
Speaking before flying home after the two-day summit in the town hall here, Mrs Thatcher said she was "not thinking in terms of compromise". Asked about reports of heated exchanges between herself and Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, the Prime Minister replied bluntly: "I do not respond to pressure."

The fisheries issue came up over dinner last night, and again during this morning's discussions. The atmosphere was said at times to have been as tense as at Dublin in the autumn of 1979 when Mrs Thatcher came close to an open breach with her EEC partners over Britain's contributions to the Community budget.

Herr Schmidt is enraged because the lack of agreement on a new fisheries policy is holding up a separate accord between the EEC and Canada which would allow West Germany's deep sea fleet into rich cod fishing grounds off Newfoundland and Labrador.

Britain refuses to ratify the Canada deal because it would cut off supplies of Canadian frozen fish to the Community and allegedly threaten the livelihood of British fishermen, who are already hard pressed by competition from low-priced imports. Fisheries policy would offer better protection against cheap imports.

Continued on page 5, col 2



Dr Martin Sweeting (right) and Mr Ian Ferber of Surrey University at work on the Uosat satellite.

UK satellite hitch-hikes to the galaxy

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Editor

While the mighty technological resources of the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) are being focused on the forthcoming maiden flight of the space shuttle, a more modest piece of space technology is coming together at the University of Surrey at Guildford.

This is Uosat, a satellite being built to benefit school-children, among others, and which will hitch-hike into orbit on the back of a Nasa Solar Explorer spacecraft.

Uosat is also intended for use by radio enthusiasts as well as serious space scientists. With a little help from their friends in industry and elsewhere, Surrey's electronics and electrical engineers are building the "shoestring" satellite at an estimated cost of about £100,000.

This is a ridiculously low figure for a scientific satellite of its size. Dr Martin Sweeting, Uosat project manager, said yesterday that for comparison, UK-6, a British scientific satellite of about the same size and complexity, had cost £9m to develop and build.

The university began to develop the craft two years ago with the deliberate aim of seeing what could be achieved on limited resources. "We adopted

a common-sense approach to see what we could get away with," Dr Sweeting said.

One thing they got away with was not paying the £15,000 quoted by an aerospace supplier for the metal honeycomb side-panels for the satellite. A small Stevenage company, which normally supplies such panels for underground train doors and racing cars, did the job for £300. "Not that we go shopping for bits in Woolworths," Dr Sweeting said.

The American Explorer launch, originally planned for mid-September, may be brought forward to July because the Nasa end of the project is well advanced. This means that life is very busy at Guildford and elsewhere for the four-man Uosat team and a supporting group of about 20 part-timers.

The satellite will cater for all tastes. It will carry experiments concerned with the ionosphere and radio propagation, which will keep the scientists happy, or at least busy. Also, it will carry a video camera to take pictures of the earth—and a talking computer to say what the readings of the instruments are—which should make science projects in schools rather more interesting than some have been in the past.

The project has the seal of approval of Amsat (the Amateur Satellite Corporation) which has coordinated work on the earlier series of Uosat satellites for amateur radio use. Industry sponsors include British Aerospace, British Telecom, Ferranti, MEL and Racal.

BL official injured in Dublin shooting

From Our Correspondent
Dublin

A republican gang shot and injured a senior British Leyland official yesterday while he was lecturing on industrial relations in Trinity College, in the centre of Dublin.

Before they fired at Mr Geoffrey Armstrong, aged 35, Director of employee relations and services at BL Cars in Coventry, the terrorists shouted: "This action is in support of H-block. Everybody freeze." Mr Armstrong staggered and fell to the ground. He was hit in the chest by three shots fired from a .38 Smith & Wesson revolver.

He was taken to the Meath Hospital with leg wounds, and his condition was described later as comfortable. The shooting occurred at 2.20 pm. Witnesses said that three men burst in at the back of the lecture theatre. They were wearing combat jackets and balaclava helmets, and at least two had revolvers. Many in the audience flung themselves to the ground as three shots were fired.

Gardaí sealed off the college and late yesterday evening they were still questioning each person as they left. There were hundreds of students, lecturers, and Dubliners on the campus at the time.

The Dublin office of the National H-Block and Armagh Committee, which has campaigned for political status for republican prisoners in the Maze and Armagh jails in Northern Ireland, denied any involvement. The Irish Republican Publicity Bureau denied that the IRA was involved.

Mr Armstrong, a member of the British Institute of Management, was in Dublin at the invitation of the Dublin Junior Chamber. He lives in Coventry and is married with three children.

Mr Gerry Collins, the Minister for Justice, said the shooting met with the overwhelming condemnation of the Irish people. Crucial role: Mr Armstrong has a key role at BL Cars (Our Midlands Industrial Correspondent writes). Since his appointment two years ago he has led the company's industrial relations team with outstanding success through some of the most critical and long running union-management negotiations in the company's history.

Sir Claude Auchinleck dies in Morocco

Marrakesh, Morocco, March 24.—Field Marshal Sir Claude Auchinleck, one of the last surviving Supreme Commanders of the British armed forces in the Second World War, died on Monday aged 96.

British embassy sources said today. Field Marshal Auchinleck, who had lived in Marrakesh since 1967, was said to have died in his sleep. He was commander-in-chief in the Middle East in 1941-42.

leading the British forces against Germany's desert commander, Erwin Rommel—Reuter.

Queen's tribute: In a personal message of condolence to Field Marshal Auchinleck's cousin, Lieutenant-Colonel Clive Auchinleck, the Queen said: "His brave and unstinting service to his country in war and peace will always be remembered." (The Press Association reports.)

Obituary, page 16

Ronald Biggs will fight extradition to Britain

By Craig Selous

Mr Ronald Biggs, the fugitive Great Train robber, who is in a police cell in Bridgetown, Barbados, after a bizarre "kidnap" in Brazil, said last night that he will fight any move to return him to Britain.

Five Britons, said to be former soldiers, are reported to have organized the elaborate abduction of Mr Biggs, aged 51, from a Rio de Janeiro restaurant last week and to have flown him to a Brazilian port where he was smuggled on board a yacht bound for Barbados.

Last night friends of Mr Biggs in Rio said that Mr David Neufeld, an American lawyer, had been appointed to represent him against extradition attempts.

The mysterious circumstances surrounding Mr Biggs' arrival in Barbados after a week at sea, and the motive for the move, took a new turn last night when a report that an heir to a fortune in Britain had helped to finance the operation. Mr Biggs, who escaped from Wandsworth prison in 1965 after serving less than two years of a 30-year sentence, was at first reported to be willing to return to Britain when he was taken off the Novcanti II, an Antigua-registered schooner, by the island's immigration officials on Monday night.

Last night he was said to have told police that he wanted to return to Brazil, where he has a son, Michael, aged 53. The fingerprints of the man held in Barbados are being sent to Scotland Yard for comparison with those of Mr Biggs's prints.



Mr Biggs leaving for Bridgetown by police car.

The Director of Public Prosecutions has also sent for the police file on Mr Biggs and is ready to apply under the Fugitive Offenders Act 1967, to have him brought back to Britain.

Mr Biggs told police that he had been kidnapped when immigration officials "rescued" him from the Novcanti II, which had apparently broken down off the coast of Barbados. But the men involved in the episode, some of whom had travelled with Mr Biggs from Brazil, claimed there had been a "citizen's arrest".

Partners in a north London security firm, Single Point Security, were said yesterday to have been behind the enterprise. Mr Gerry Brown, a

freelance journalist who said he was taken on as a press-liaison man, said the kidnap had been masterminded by Mr Fred Prime, a Londoner and a Mr John Miller, both known as John McKillop, both former Scots Guards.

Mr Miller, aged 36, was married in Bridgetown at the time the Novcanti II arrived off Barbados.

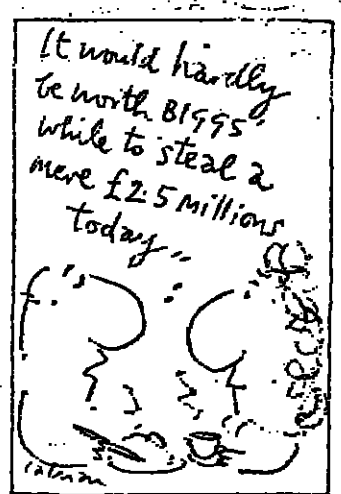
A third member of their team is said to be a Mr Patrick King, another former soldier, who runs a taxi company in north London.

As in the past, the case surrounding Mr Biggs has turned into a can of worms. Money is the obvious motive for his "abduction" and a London agent, apparently representing the "snatch" squad, has

offered national newspapers the full story. A price up to £500,000 has been mentioned. Mr Jack Slipper, who then as a detective chief superintendent failed to bring Mr Biggs back to Britain, said yesterday that he was disappointed for the fugitive. "I would like to have seen him come back to Britain under his own steam."

Five named: Barbados police last night named the five men on the yacht with Mr Biggs as: Mr Thomas McLeod Maciver, aged 25, of Edinburgh, the skipper; Mr Gregory David Nelson, aged 19, of North Carolina, USA; Mr Anthony James Marriaga, aged 26, of London; Mr Frederick Charles Prime, aged 42; and Mr Mark St John Hargate, aged 22, of Plymouth.

Fugitive in headlines, page 4



Polish Council of State calls for crisis session

By Our Foreign Staff

The Polish Council of State is to convene a special session of Parliament on Monday because of the gravity of the crisis facing the country, state television reported yesterday.

Leaders of the independent trade union movement, Solidarity, yesterday proclaimed a four-hour national strike on Friday and an indefinite general strike next Tuesday. But after a clash between moderates and militants they left the door open for last-minute peace talks.

Faced with the threatened resignation of Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, the union's national consultative commission accepted his compromise proposal to declare a warning stoppage rather than an immediate strike for an all-out general strike.

The commission, in an angry mood and seeking a big protest against alleged police assault on its members in Bydgoszcz last Thursday, had tried to overrule Mr Walesa during a turbulent all-night session.

But last night, the state television said the chairman of the Bydgoszcz Provincial Assembly had announced his intention to resign. Solidarity has said it wants the resignations of a provincial deputy governor, police officials and a deputy prime minister

who was present when police were called to the assembly. Mr Walesa warned his union colleagues that the declaration of an immediate general strike would dash the last hope of reaching a settlement with the authorities and he stayed away from the commission meeting when it resumed yesterday.

He returned to preside over the meeting only after the commission had accepted his proposal which hinged on the resumption of talks with the Government today.

It was immediately reported by the official news agency PAF which said there was an atmosphere of tension and anxiety in the country.

The crisis coincides with continued Warsaw Pact manoeuvres in and around Poland, heightening concern about possible Soviet military intervention.

Units of Polish, Soviet, Czechoslovak and East German armed forces are taking part in the exercises which are expected to end late this week. Food rationing has been ordered by the authorities in the Gdansk region because of an acute shortage of bread, potatoes, and other foodstuffs. Polish television reported today it said that "enormous queues" formed today outside food shops in the Gdansk, Sopot and Gdynia urban area.

EEC aid, page 5

Four BL unions on strike at Metro plant

Four white collar unions made official a two-day strike by their members at BL's Longbridge plant intended to stop production of the mini Metro. The men are angry at the imposition of redundancies after an insufficient number of workers volunteered to leave. They claim that some men with long service were given only half an hour's notice.

Foot-and-mouth clash

Farmers and auctioneers clashed over livestock markets being held near the area declared by the Government to be in immediate danger from foot-and-mouth disease. The National Farmers' Union called for a ban on such markets, but an auctioneer in the area said they had to only half an hour's notice.

Spanish king's demand

King Juan Carlos told senior Spanish Army, Navy and Air Force officers in Madrid that increasing terrorist violence made it necessary: "to act with decisive defence to an energetic offensive". But he also set clear limits to the growing influence of the armed forces on the country's civilian government.

QC as mediator in auction dispute

Mr Patrick Neill, QC, Warden of All Souls College, Oxford, is mediating in the dispute between art dealers and auctioneers over the auctioneers' 10 per cent buyers' premium. He is seeking a compromise before a case is heard in the High Court in the autumn.

Ulster powers move

A new attempt to restore devolved powers to Northern Ireland is to be made by the Government. Central to the new move will be the protection of Roman Catholics against discrimination. Oursight majority rule will not be an option and there are no plans to hand back powers to the 26 district councils.

Dali painting in jail

A painting of the Crucifixion by Salvador Dali has been discovered hanging in the dining room of a New York prison. The artist donated the work to the Rikers Island jail in 1965. It has now been authenticated and valued at £45,000.

Civil Service strike

Department of Employment, Scottish courts, military establishments and ports of Hull and Felixstowe are likely to suffer. Nairobi: Mr Charles Njonjo named in Kenya plot trial. Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 24, 26; La Crème de la Crème, 25; 24; Appointments, 24; Residential property, 12.

"I look for effective action..."

"I look for effective action from any organisation. That is why I admire Help the Aged, for it gets on with the job, the vital job of helping old people in real need, in a thoroughly practical yet friendly way. And with the minimum red tape and the maximum mobilisation of voluntary effort—which is why it achieves such a great deal with the money it is given." You are likely to have gained your capital by diligence, so you will want whatever you leave used with similar thrift and care when you are no longer here.

Even on an estate totalling no more than £60,000 the tax burden can be an unpleasant surprise to your heirs—and you will have no choice in the way that tax is used.

Yet tax can be substantially reduced if you wish charitable work to benefit from a legacy. Thanks to the Chancellor's 1980 budget, charitable gifts up to £200,000 are now disregarded in assessing duty. It means that, for example, on an estate of £130,000 a charity legacy of £1,000 need cost your estate only half that amount.

And you, not officials, decide how that money is to be used when making the legacy. There are few needs greater than the increasing problems of old people: acute loneliness, frailty as they live longer, bad housing; and, overseas, severe hunger. Help the Aged is well-known for its enduring work in providing flats, day centres, mini-buses, medical research and much more in Britain; and for its work for the hungry overseas. Help with a legacy of continuing value.

How to Reduce Capital Transfer Tax and Making Your Will—two helpful booklets with much useful information, free on request from: The Hon. Treasurer, The Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room T2L, 32 Dover Street, London W1A 2AP.



Sir Monty Finlayson

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Political defections cause chaos as the Tories relinquish borough control

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Zimbabwe to receive £25m more aid from Britain as part of improved aid package

From Nicholas Asford Salisbury, March 24

Lord Soames, who is leading the British delegation to the Zimbabwe conference on reconstruction and development, today announced that Britain is to contribute an additional £25m towards the cost of higher education for Zimbabwean students in Britain.

The £25m is part of a package amounting to £25m of new British aid which has been committed to Zimbabwe. Lord Soames said this brought Britain's total aid commitment to Zimbabwe since the country became independent a year ago to more than £140m.

His announcement came during a series of pledging speeches by representatives from donor nations and organizations which, by the end of the day, totalled £528m.

However, a breakdown of this figure was not immediately available, nor was it clear how much of this total was "new money" which did not take into account previous aid commitments, nor how much was in the form of grants or loans.

Zimbabwe is trying to raise more than \$800m to finance reconstruction, rural development and manpower training projects over the next three years.

It was clear from today's pledges that the conference, which still has three days to run, will come close to achieving that figure.

Mr Tom Mswaka, Permanent Secretary at the Department of

Economic Planning, said with mild understatement that he was "satisfied" with the outcome of the conference so far.

Britain's additional aid package falls into three parts. In addition to the £25m to the students, a further £10m is being earmarked for land settlement, including purchase of land from white farmers.

Britain has so far earmarked £20m for land settlement projects. Another £10m will go towards the cost of regional communications projects in southern Africa.

Lord Soames said one scheme Britain had in mind was the improvement of the rail link to the Mozambique port of Beira, which would be the country's main export route before closure of the border between Rhodesia (as it then was) and Mozambique in 1976.

The question of Zimbabwean student fees had threatened to sour the otherwise cordial relations with Zimbabwe. In 1966 Britain joined a training scheme to enable black Rhodesians, whose schooling was interrupted by the unilateral declaration of independence, to complete their studies in a number of Commonwealth countries.

However, after independence last year Britain said the new Government should pay for its overseas students.

Dr Tim Matthews, director of the Africa Educational Trust, said it would cost £15m to en-

able all Zimbabwean students finishing courses in Britain to continue for a further three years. Many of them could not return to study at the University of Zimbabwe, as there were more than 4,000 applicants for only 1,200 places.

While welcoming the increased funds he said this figure was "totally inadequate to meet the needs of many students who enrolled on courses which are not available in Zimbabwe".

Among the donor nations which responded today to the call by Dr Bernard Chidzero, Minister of Economic Planning, for a "healthy push to start us going" were the United States, West Germany, Sweden, The Netherlands, Canada, Norway, Australia, Denmark and France, as well as international organizations like the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme.

One of the largest commitments was made by the United States which will provide \$75m (about \$22.5 million) over the next three years, subject to congressional approval of the Reagan Administration's aid budget.

Canada is to provide Can \$50m (about £20m) over five years. West Germany will raise its commitment from £12m to about £18m in 1981, while France is offering a doubling of its present aid to £22m. At the bottom end the Japanese chipped in with about £3m.

Mr Njonjo named in Kenya plot trial

From Charles Harrison Nairobi, March 24

A Nairobi magistrate conducting a preliminary inquiry into an alleged plot to overthrow President Moi of Kenya was told today that Mr. Andrews Muthemba, charged with treason, had claimed to represent a group of "big names", including Mr. Njonjo, the Minister of Constitutional and Home Affairs.

Captain Ricky Gutu, of the Kenya Air Force, gave evidence today of conversations with Mr. Muthemba and Mr. Dickson Mwangi, who is accused of misprision of treason. He said that Mr. Muthemba had asked him to obtain quantities of arms, including machine guns, rifles, and hand grenades, for the alleged plot.

Mr. Muthemba had also claimed that Mr. Njonjo, the head of the Kenya Central Intelligence Agency, had helped to prevent the discovery of the alleged plot.

Captain Gutu said he had been acting with the knowledge of his superiors when meeting the two accused men.

Mr. Muthemba had given him a list of arms wanted by the group, and had told him, when referring to President Moi, that "this man must go". The inquiry continues.

MP resigns: Mr. Ougo Ochieng, the MP for Bondo, Western Kenya, announced today that he had resigned to allow Mr. Oginga Odinga, the former Vice-President who was barred from the 1974 and 1979 elections, to return to Parliament through a by-election.

Mr. Odinga was detained from 1969 to 1972 after forming the short-lived Kenya People's Union, which was dissolved. He rejoined the ruling Kenya African National Union but was denied formal clearance to stand as a candidate in the 1974 and 1979 elections. His life membership of Kanu has since been confirmed.

Briton jailed for murder of young Dutch girl

Arnhem, March 24.—A Dutch court today jailed Geoffrey Allen Powell, aged 23, of Manchester, for 12 years for murdering a Dutch girl, Mr. Powell, who was considered to be of diminished responsibility, was ordered to undergo indefinite psychiatric treatment.

He was also charged with the attempted rape of Karin Nathans, aged 12, found dead in a ditch near the Rhine last August 1. Mr. Jan Kopp, for the prosecution, said Mr. Powell was sentenced for five years in England in 1975 for attempted rape and served four years.

Mr. Powell admitted strangling Karin Nathans with her belt, but claimed he had not meant to kill her: "I only wanted to hear her screaming," he said.—Reuter.

Modernisierung INSTANDSETZ



Squatters leaving houses they had occupied in the Kreuzberg district of West Berlin after police forces yesterday broke down fortifications built in front of the entrances.

German police search houses of neo-Nazis

From Patricia Clough Bonn, March 24

Police today searched about 450 homes in one of the biggest nationwide operations against neo-Nazi activities in West Germany.

They seized large quantities of Nazi propaganda and anti-Semitic publications which had been printed in the United States and Canada and either smuggled or mailed into West Germany.

They made no arrests but those found in possession of large quantities face charges of spreading Nazi propaganda and racial incitement, which are punished by maximum jail terms of three and five years respectively.

The simultaneous raids followed investigations by the Stuttgart public prosecutor's office into the alleged activities of two German-Americans, Mr. Garry Lauck, aged 28, and Mr. Gerd Dietz, aged 41, and a German Canadian, Mr. Ernst C. F. Zündel.

They are alleged to be partly responsible for what a security service official described as "floods" of pamphlets, brochures, stickers, records and tape-recordings which have been shipped into West Ger-

many to the concern of the authorities.

The propaganda, often adorned with swastikas, proclaims that "Hitler lives", that the evidence of the extermination of six million Jews is a "lie", that the Nazi revolution will come and that Jews must be fought "to the death".

Mr. Lauck of Lincoln, Nebraska, is the leader of the Nazi Overseas and Reconstruction Organization and publisher of a newspaper called the "NS Kampfruf" (Nazi call to battle). Expelled from West Germany in the mid-70s he returned illegally in 1975 and was given a six months suspended sentence for spreading 20,000 stickers saying "Don't buy from Jews".

Mr. Dietz of Reedy, West Virginia specializes in an anti-Semitic material printed by his firm, White Power Publications. Mr. Zündel of Toronto, who claims to be head of a Zündel Combat Group is known for his publications and tape recordings claiming that the film "Holocaust" was a lie.

A Stuttgart police spokesman said that 70 per cent of those whose homes were searched in Baden-Württemberg were more than 30 years old, but by no means all were "old Nazis".

Mr Bush's role upsets top Reagan aides

From Patrick Brogan Washington, March 24

President Reagan, according to several reports, is to appoint Mr. George Bush, his Vice-President, to be chairman of a crisis management committee of the National Security Council.

Mr. Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, said today that he did not think a decision had been made on the issue, and that if it had "that would pose another set of problems".

Mr. Haig was giving evidence to a Senate committee and was asked about the reports. He replied: "I read with interest and, I suppose, a lack of enthusiasm, the newspaper reports that you refer to. One recognizes that, however the President decides to organize his national security structure, that is both his prerogative and his responsibility. I don't think a decision has been made on this issue."

"At least, it has not been discussed with me if one has been made. In that case, that would pose another set of problems," he said.

The role of crisis manager has usually been filled by the national security adviser. However, there has often been conflict between the adviser and the Secretary of State and the appointment of Mr. Bush seems to be an attempt to hold rivalry between Mr. Haig and Mr. Reagan's national security adviser, Mr. Richard Allen. It has displeased both of them.

Mr. Allen is not likely to be particularly pleased, if it goes through, because the Vice-President is part of the Ford-Kissinger-Haig wing of the Republican Party, not a hard-Furthermore, putting him in charge of arrangements for the summit implies that Mr. Allen such as event. There was considerable criticism of Mr. Reagan's recent trip to Canada.

Mr. Haig has been disturbed at some of the foreign policy pronouncements of members of the White House staff, including the speech by Mr. Allen last Saturday in which he described "a rising tide of racism" in West Europe and denounced Britain's Labour Party.

Mr. Haig also reacted sharply to an interview given by one of Mr. Allen's assistants last week, in which he predicted that unless the Russians give up communism, there will be a war between the Soviet Union and the United States.

In that interview the official, Mr. Richard Pines, asserted that détente was dead. Mr. Haig may incline to that belief himself but he would not say so publicly. He has insisted repeatedly that he is in charge of foreign policy, and that officials of the National Security Council must follow his directions.

The trouble with this procedure is that Mr. Allen works in the same building as the President and sees him every day.

M Marchais is accused of two-faced tactics

From Our Own Correspondent Paris, March 24

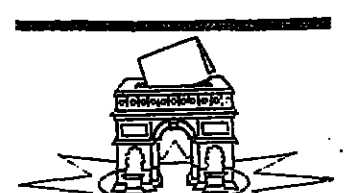
Mr. Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, keeps on proclaiming that he is the only real "anti-Giscard" candidate in the lists. But last night, in his first television performance since the beginning of February, he proved that he was much more effective as an "anti-Mitterrand" candidate.

He presented the Socialist candidate with nothing short of an ultimatum: "Mr. François Mitterrand would not have Communist support if he did not take Communist ministers into any government he might form—which is another way of ensuring that he is not. To drive the point home, Mr. Marchais threatened to stage strikes and demonstrations to ensure that a left-wing government adopted a policy of real change and prevent it from coming to terms with the right."

Both threats were designed to undermine the Socialist leader's tactics of appealing for the votes of the Communist rank and file—on the ground that he alone has a chance of defeating Mr. Giscard d'Estaing—and for those of the centre, by insisting that, if he won, he would not appoint Communist Ministers.

No wonder Mr. Georges Sarre, one of the left-wing Socialist leaders, described Mr. Marchais as a Janus-like figure; one face was of the anti-Giscard candidate, the other of an inspirer of a secret union against François Mitterrand.

Last night's was not one of M. Marchais' best performances on television. He was nervous, aggressive, and talked as if he were addressing a public meeting, not a panel of journalists.



French Presidential Election

It was obvious that the key passage of the broadcast had been thoroughly discussed by the party leadership.

On the assumption that M. Giscard d'Estaing and M. Mitterrand were left face to face in the second round, he said he would certainly not choose the first and he did not wish to call for abstention.

But voting for the Socialist leader "raised a serious problem". The real danger is to see François Mitterrand, if he has a free hand, govern with the right to pursue and aggravate the present policies.

The only way to prevent this and bring pressure to bear on him, was to ensure that the Communists had a substantial vote in the first ballot.

EEC offers Poland food supplies

From Peter Norman Warszawa, March 24

The leaders of the 10 EEC states today promised to continue providing economic support for Poland.

At their meeting here, the heads of government responded to Polish requests for food aid and a rescheduling of the country's huge debt burden by saying they were willing to act within the limits of their means and in collaboration with others.

In a final statement, the EEC earned the Soviet Union to keep out of Poland's affairs. They emphasized that any other attitude would have very serious consequences for the future of international relations in Europe and throughout the world.

Poland proved to be the dominant theme during the informal part of the two-day summit.

An overriding concern was the state of the Polish economy, which Lord Carrington, the British Secretary of State, said had "clearly deteriorated".

Mr. Jacques Delors, the EEC Commissioner responsible for financial affairs, went further and described Poland's economic position as "catastrophic".

The Polish Government approached the European Commission with a request for cheap food supplies two days ago, and today the heads of government ordered the Community institutions and member states to treat the issue as a matter of urgency. But an even bigger emergency is the \$25,000m (\$31,000m) owed by Poland to the West.

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, said after the meeting that all EEC states were prepared to help the Poles with food and finance.

President Giscard d'Estaing of France said that the French and West German governments had rescheduled their share of Poland's debt burden and he called on other countries to follow suit.

At present Poland's debt position is the subject of negotiations with its creditors in the "Club of Paris". These countries have agreed to grant Poland bridging loans of \$1,000m a quarter to tide the economy over.

Mrs. Thatcher also emphasized that the Poles must solve their own problems in their own way. But she underlined that Poland was an object of continual concern and that Britain was prepared to contribute food aid.

Bankers to confer: A group of international bankers will meet in London next Tuesday to continue negotiations on Poland's request to refinance about \$1,000m of commercial debt falling due this year. The meeting is expected to be attended by Mr. Jan Woloszyn, first Vice-President of Bank Handlowy, the Polish state foreign trade bank.—Reuter.

Herr Schmidt angered at fish dispute deadlock

Continued from page 1

But agreement is blocked by a dispute between France and Britain over the access of French trawlers to British inshore waters, on which local fishermen are especially dependent.

Mrs. Thatcher declared: "Our fishermen must have the certainty and confidence which a fisheries policy as a whole will give them." The accord with Canada "could not possibly have been agreed to by us in isolation", she added.

Herr Schmidt commented bitterly after the meeting that he felt "deceived and disappointed" by the EEC's failure to put a new fisheries policy into effect by the end of last year. This deadline was endorsed by Britain as part of last May's package deal on its budget contributions.

"The Federal Republic agreed to a financial deal which caused enormous difficulties and higher taxation in Germany," Mr. Schmidt declared in aggrieved tones. "I was deceived and disappointed. There is no point in such an agreement if one side does not stick to it."

During the summit discussion Mrs. Thatcher firmly rejected the accusation that Britain was the cause of the failure to meet the end-of-year deadline. The British view is that agree-

ment was nearly reached last December and prevented only by French intransigence.

Mrs. Thatcher apparently took the initiative in calling for this Friday's meeting of agriculture and fisheries ministers, who had not been due to meet until some 10 days later.

President Giscard d'Estaing of France left most of the sparring with Mrs. Thatcher on fish to the German Chancellor. He expressed confidence that an agreement could be reached on Friday but said firmly that France would "not renounce its traditional rights".

This was taken to be a reference to the so-called "historic rights" of French fishermen within 12 miles of the British coast, particularly off Cornwall, which Mr. Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, would like to see reduced.

The heads of government also called on their agriculture ministers to reach agreement on this year's EEC farm price package by April 1. The chances of doing so seemed to have been improved by an adjustment of "green rates" announced in Brussels today.

The European Commission was urged by the EEC leaders to submit its promised proposals for reform of the EEC's budget system in time for discussion at their next summit meeting on June 30.

Britain in storm over remains of General Sikorski

By Our Foreign Staff

The British Home Secretary will have to decide whether the remains of General Wladyslaw Sikorski, leader of the Polish government in exile in Britain after 1939, can return to Poland.

Poles in Britain are angry about reported moves by the Polish Government to obtain the remains of the wartime general killed in an air crash in 1942. He is buried along with many of his countrymen in the Polish war cemetery at Newark, Nottinghamshire.

The Polish news agency PAP stated yesterday that General Sikorski's remains were to return to Poland. British officials say no such request has been received.

In May, thousands of Poles are expected to make a pilgrimage to Newark to celebrate the centenary of the general's birth. Along with thousands of his countrymen, General Sikorski served with the British forces, and many Polish servicemen were stationed at Royal Air Force bases in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. Polish ex-servicemen living in Britain say they object to the remains being sent back to Poland because the country is under Soviet influence and still not a free nation.

French authorities act swiftly to contain foot and mouth outbreak Emergency for farmers in the valley of the pigs

From Ian Murray Paris, March 24

Early on Sunday, March 1, the farmer's wife on a small pig farm in northern Brittany checked on the new litters of piglets which the previous evening had seemed normal.

To her horror she found what looked like a slaughter. Eleven piglets lay about a sty, crumpled and broken as though they had been thrown about by a sadistic killer. Their stomachs looked blue and swollen, and when she checked further the wife found several of the sows had pustules on their teats and their snouts looked as though they had been dipped in boiling water.

The local veterinary surgeon was called out immediately and he diagnosed swine fever, but as a precaution he sent the carcasses for testing. The following Thursday he told the farmer that his piglets had died from a comparatively rare virus strain of foot and mouth disease.

As a precaution, and even before the final results of the tests were known, the small farm had been isolated. Following normal procedure, the veterinary surgeon had notified the prefecture in Saint Brieuc and, as soon as the outbreak was

confirmed, the whole area was cut off by a sanitary cordon.

The farm is in an area with the densest population of pigs in Europe. The local farmers run their own cooperative, which claims to have the largest abattoir of its kind in Europe, handling 300,000 pigs a year. Not surprisingly, the region centred on Lamballe is known as "the valley of the pigs".

Nevertheless, foot and mouth disease has not occurred in the area since 1974, and even then the valley itself largely escaped. When the confirmation of the outbreak came through on March 5, the local breeders were shocked and mystified.

The only recent outbreak this type of virus in Europe had been in Austria, over 600 miles away. There had been no outbreak in France since 1976 in Normandy.

As each case was confirmed, all the animals on the farm involved were destroyed, as required by law. The farmers, particularly those who also raised cattle, were so upset that it was agreed locally not to release their names in order to protect them from the press.

At the same time as the sanitary cordon was instituted, in a six-mile radius an extensive programme began to vaccinate

571,630 animals—a precaution which may have paid dividends, since one case subsequently came to light in a neighbouring farm.

All the local veterinary surgeons were mobilised and 50 Army vets were sent in to help. Working in teams, they finished the huge task in four days.

Adequate stocks of vaccine were available because France instituted compulsory vaccination for all cattle in 1962, on the ground that France—unlike Britain—has huge land frontiers which cannot be closed against the disease. Equally, the size of the French herd—nearly 25 million—is too large to vaccinate in an emergency.

The 1962 regulation excluded pigs because their average lifespan is too short to warrant the expense of vaccinations. All cattle over six months old, however, have to be vaccinated and have to be given an annual booster. Since 1972 the state has ended its subsidy for this, and the full cost has to be paid by the farmer.

Some rebel farmers defied the law rather than have their herds vaccinated because, they claim, the vaccination can be dangerous and it generally benefits only the drug companies.

The Brittany foot and mouth outbreak established itself in the unprotected pig herds and spread to the surrounding area. There was carried out there to limit the spread of the disease.

The vaccine used should provide immunity after 10 days. To be quite sure, however, the regulations insist that the sanitary cordon must be kept in place for 15 days after the last outbreak inside the isolated area. After that, two months have to elapse before a farm which has been infected can be restocked.

Apart from the strict limitations on the movement of livestock in the area, there are further limitations on what can be done with the meat from the Lamballe Abattoir. Each carcass is now stamped with a special round seal, which means it cannot be exported and must be used solely for domestic consumption.

This has caused the price of pork—already severely depressed—to fall further by 40 centimes (about 3p) a kilogramme. The French Government has agreed to help the farmers in the area by guaranteeing them a basic minimum price.

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King of Spain urges 'offensive' to halt wave of ETA violence

From Richard Wigg
Madrid, March 24

Speaking to senior Spanish Army, Navy and Air Force officers here today, King Juan Carlos declared that, after last week's increase in terrorist violence, "it is necessary to act with decisiveness, passing from a posture of patient defence to an energetic offensive".

The king's words came as an endorsement of last night's decision by the inner Cabinet of the Government of Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo to use armed forces units for the first time in the fight against ETA, the Basque terrorist organization.

The king, addressing the superior councils of the three armed forces, assembled for the first time since 1976 told the officers he understood their reaction to the fact that Basque terrorists made senior Army officers their preferred target, as happened twice last week. But he also set clear limits to the growing influence of the armed forces on the civilian Government, to which Señor Calvo Sotelo at present appears to be submitting. He repeated his pleas to the armed forces to "reflect profoundly" on last month's failed military coup and the "tragic results" it might have had.

The king, speaking in the presence of the Prime Minister, went on: "But do not let us forget that these tragic results could also come from a slow process of decomposition, lack of authority, or a gradual overstepping of constitutional norms."

He urged the officers to fulfil the laws of the country and uphold its institutions. The king was even more outspoken when tackling the difficult problem that the armed forces face in finding adequate means with which to communicate their feelings to the rest of society.

"I do not mean, and this must be completely clear, that there is a need for establishing a military influence which presses on national political activities," he said, "but rather the reverse, so that national political activities are

not obsessed by military influence after the grave events of February 23." What was important was that, like other forces in society, their sentiments could be known and properly evaluated.

A single unified anti-terrorist command is to be set up in the next few days, the inner Cabinet announced last night, with the armed forces represented alongside the state security forces, the national police, and the Civil Guard, whose senior officers are also from the armed forces.

Señor Juan Rosón, the Interior Minister, is expected to take charge of the 10-man body but decisions will be taken unanimously, according to informed sources.

Most of the units are expected to come from the six military regional commands based on Burgos, which covers the Basque region of northern Spain. But specialized units may be drawn from other parts of the country.

The Army units will be used to assist the civilian police and the paramilitary Civil Guard in keeping a watch along Spain's northern frontier and in intelligence activities which are now to be coordinated throughout the Basque region.

The Basque autonomous regional government, making its first comment today, argued that last night's move did not need to affect individual rights or the powers of the regional government.

Señor Calvo Sotelo was meeting the Army Council this afternoon. He is also due to see Señor Carlos Garaikoetxea, Chief Minister of the Basque regional government, here tomorrow.

In the past few days, the police have arrested 18 suspected members of ETA in the Navarre region, scene of one of last week's killings, and in the Basque country 20 suspects were arrested early today.

The steering committee of the Chamber of Deputies today agreed to a Government request to try to get legislation on terrorism and incitement to rebellion through Parliament next week.



This painting of the Crucifixion was valued at £45,000.

Salvador Dali work hung unnoticed in jail canteen

New York, March 24.—A

canteen at a city prison has not only been dishing out meals, but, for the last 16 years, a cultural diet as well. A Salvador Dali painting donated by the artist in 1965 hangs on a wall.

At least it did until its authenticity was discovered. It is now in the executive offices of the Corrections Department for safekeeping. The 5ft by 4ft painting of the Crucifixion has been the subject of investigation over the past two weeks after a warden at the Rikers Island prison called in a Manhattan art dealer who authenticated the piece and valued it at up to \$100,000 (about £45,000). The origins and value of the

work, given after Dali had visited the jail, has been obscured and forgotten with the change in wardens and guards over the years.

But prison officials, attempting to trace the history of the piece, said that if a second valuation supported the first, the Corrections Department would like to ask the artist for permission to sell the work.

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Likud begins West Bank settlements coach tours

From Christopher Walker
Ariel, March 24

One of the most controversial election exercises devised in Israel, more than 300,000 voters—nearly one-tenth of the population—were to be taken on subsidized coach tours of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank before polling day on June 30.

The scheme is being financed by the ruling right-wing Likud coalition. The coalition Government has since 1977 increased the number of West Bank settlements by more than 40, and pledges to have another 10 fully operational before voting.

Likud campaign managers believe the opposition Labour Party is vulnerable on the settlement issue because of deep internal divisions between "hawks" and "doves". It is also hoped that the tours will strengthen national resistance to any suggestion that the settlements should be dismantled.

The chief architect of the scheme is Mr Ariel Sharon, the Minister of Agriculture and former general, who sees the new settlements as one of the Government's main electoral assets.

Mr Sharon said today: "It is important for Israel to see for themselves a complex problem which will become the most controversial issue between us and both Europe and America. People will see the importance of the territory and they will see the Government has met its promises—we have been working hard here for four years."

Striding up the rocky hillside will form a central part of the tour, Mr Sharon added: "It is better for Israelis to have the issue explained climbing these hills than sitting in some warm living room, eating little sandwiches. They will see these settlements are vital to Israel's existence and our security."

Among other places, voters will be shown Ariel, a settlement town intended to have a population of 50,000 Jews by the end of the century. Land appropriated from Arabs is being turned into an industrial area and 60 concrete houses have been completed recently.

Mr Sharon seems unconcerned by international condemnation. "Returning to Samaria is not a dream for us, it is a right. The Arabs have a right to be here and so do we," he said. "We have no intention of stopping expanding the 85 settlements which will be in place by the end of June."

Reporters, conducted on a preview of the route discovered today that the tours have already begun. One couple travelling in a convoy of 11 coaches told me that they had paid the equivalent of 10p each for the 200-mile trip.

Three killed in second militia raid on village

From Robert Fisk
Beirut, March 24

The small and poverty-ridden Shia Muslim village of At Tiri was attacked again last night and once more United Nations troops were unable to prevent gunmen from dynamiting a house near the main street, killing three of the occupants.

Scarcely a month ago the home of the village Mukhtar in the south Lebanese village was also destroyed in an explosion set off by militiamen of Major Saad Haddad.

According to the provincial authorities in Sidon this morning, it was again a gang of Major Haddad's men who entered the hamlet last night, blowing up the second house and killing three people inside—believed to be children—and injuring six others.

At Tiri lies on the southern edge of the United Nations operations area in the zone controlled by Irish troops, and for six months Major Haddad has been threatening the occupants of the village.

According to his Israeli-supported militia, Palestinian guerrillas have infiltrated the area and Major Haddad has warned the villagers to expel known leftists. On numerous occasions the United Nations has promised to protect the people of At Tiri, but their soldiers have been singularly

ineffective in preventing bombing attacks both there and in the neighbouring village of Bradchit.

Less than a week ago Major-General William Callaghan, the new United Nations Force commander in Lebanon, asked the Israelis to exercise greater control over Major Haddad's men, but his appeal seems to have had little effect.

Last year, when the militias tried to enter At Tiri, Irish troops drove them out, killing two of Major Haddad's gunmen in the process. It was that incident that led to the murder of two Irish troops in the United Nations contingent, allegedly shot dead in a "blood feud".

Soldier dies: A Nigerian United Nations soldier died in an Israeli hospital today of wounds received when Lebanese Christian right-wing militia bombed a United Nations position in the village of Kantara on March 16. United Nations sources said none of the remaining 19 wounded was in any danger.

Two Nigerian soldiers serving with the interim force in Lebanon (Unifil) were killed in the incident.

So far, 61 United Nations soldiers have died since the force was established nearly three years ago.—Reuters.

Lebanon presses for united strategy against Israel

From Tewfik Mislawi
Beirut, March 24

With the continuing violence in southern Lebanon and the lack of sufficient international help to solve its six-year-old crisis, Lebanon is pressing the Arab League to convince a meeting of the Arab states bordering Israel.

The Lebanese Liberation Organization (PLO) would be invited but not Egypt, and the aim would be to agree on a common strategy to deal with the repeated Israeli attacks on Lebanese territory.

The request was made in a note from Mr Fuad Buroos, the Lebanese Foreign Minister, to Mr Chadi Klibi, Secretary-General of the Arab League, which has been meeting in Tunis at Foreign Minister level.

In his note, Mr Buroos urged the League's Secretary-General to make an effort to carry out a resolution adopted at the recent Islamic summit in Taif, Saudi Arabia, calling for the 20 Arab parties concerned to lay down a comprehensive strategy which would clearly define each country's responsibility in the common struggle against Israel.

"Lebanon has been suffering enormously from the present state of affairs and looks forward to measures for the practical application" of the resolution, Mr Buroos said in his note.

In a controversial speech at the Islamic summit last January, President Elias Sarkis of Lebanon, underlined the seriousness of the troubled situation in southern Lebanon and called on the Arab League to press the Arab states bordering Israel to discuss the request.

This is the first time the Lebanese Government has asked for a meeting of the Arab countries bordering Israel to discuss the request.

The Lebanese argument is that it is unfair to keep southern Lebanon an active battlefield while all is quiet on the other Arab fronts facing Israel.

Lebanon's request for Syrian and Jordanian participation in the drafting of a common strategy is designed to ensure constraints on the Palestinian guerrilla movement, which has a substantial presence in southern Lebanon.

It is difficult to see, however, how the Arab League Secretary-General could bring the parties concerned together when relations between Syria and Jordan are at their lowest ebb and the PLO continues to insist on its right to pursue the "armed struggle" against Israel.

Condemnation of Freemasonry is seen as move to assert Vatican's authority

From Peter Nichols
Rome, March 24

An authoritative attempt has been made to explain the mystery of why the Vatican has suddenly and formally resented its "brotherly" Freemasonry.

Father Giovanni Caprile, writing in the Jesuit periodical *Civiltà Cattolica*, lists many of the reasons that have been wrongly given for the Vatican's move. The idea of a new condemnation of Freemasonry has been seen, he said, variously as a manoeuvre by conservative thinkers to halt ecumenical dialogue with Protestants, whose countries had many Masons; an example of the return to more radical positions intended to put an end to the accommodating attitudes of Pope Paul VI's reign; a brake on certain episcopal conferences; and a veto on individual efforts being made at dialogue.

No doubt modesty prevented Father Caprile from adding to this list the fact that his own writings had been interpreted as a sign of a more open attitude towards a foe first condemned by the Roman Catholic Church in 1738 only 26 years after Freemasonry officially began.

The somewhat puzzling document was published on March 2 at noon without comment. It came in the form of a declaration by the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the former Holy Office. In this document it was pointed out that the Congregation had written a confidential letter in July 1974, to a number of bishops' conferences containing an interpretation of the Canon

(2335) which lays down excommunication as the punishment incurred by Catholics who join the Masons.

That letter, addressed to about 20 conferences, did not remain confidential, it pointed out that consultation with bishops in countries where the question was important had brought out such a diversity of views that Rome had decided to abide by the present legislation until the revision of the whole of canon law was complete.

This letter, according to the declaration of March 2, had become public knowledge and resulted in mistaken and tendentious interpretations. The declaration was intended to correct these errors, and insisted on three main points.

First, canon law had not been modified on the issue and remained in force. Second, excommunication for Catholics who become Freemasons had not been abrogated. Third, the declaration attempted to define the limits of the field in which bishops could act on their own responsibility regarding the question of Freemasonry and, by implication, other subjects.

In recent years there have been some attempts to look in a more dispassionate way at the Freemasons. The West German bishops have been engaged in a long study of Freemasonry. They issued a document in April, 1980, which described this effort and gave their conclusions.

The conclusions were totally bleak. "In-depth research on the ritual and on the Masonic mentality makes it clear that it is impossible to belong to the Catholic Church and to Freemasonry at the same time."

Probably the German inquiry was of a type to upsurge Rome. Individual conferences, bishops, and scholars were taking into consideration the whole significance of the issue. But this overall view must remain the prerogative of Rome.

The declaration makes very clear that the 1974 letter left local bishops free to decide on individual cases, but there was no intention to allow episcopal conferences "to pronounce publicly with a verdict of a general character on the nature of Masonic associations."

For Father Caprile himself sees the declaration as a cautionary measure "suggested by the very different conditions existing from one country to another, inspired by the need for a certain uniformity in pastoral action as not to disorientate the faithful by the need for a certain harmony which only those who have before them a global vision of the entire church can assure."

In other words, Rome still decides on an issue as large as Freemasonry.

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Newspaper museum opened near Paris

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, March 24

This year is the three hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the first French newspaper, the *Gazette of Theophrast Renaudot*, and the hundred anniversary of the law of freedom of the press.

It seems appropriate, for, that it should be to mark the opening of a annex of the Bibliothèque Nationale, the Centre for Conservation and Reproduction of the Press, in the hitherto forgotten district of Paris. It bears the name of André François-Poncet, an old newspaperman and journalist, and of the town.

The Centre is housed in a restored convent, the *Cedex Cordeliers*, founded 1248 by Thibaut, Comte Champagne, on the *Mon Catherine*, just outside the medieval upper town.

The convent suffered from war and pillage in the ages and became a home for the poor. In 1801, under Louis XVIII, it ended much the worse for war, old people's home in present century, but vacated in 1914 when a home was built.

Restoration work began 1979 and is not yet complete. But 36,500 sq ft of floor, are already available, including the thirteenth-century house. The chapel of the vent has yet to be renovated. The cost, which amounts to 15m francs (£1.36m), borne by the state, the town and, for a small part, the National Press Federation.

The inauguration ceremony on Monday was attended by three ministers, including Alain Peyrefitte, the Minister of Justice and mayor of Paris; Mme Saurier-Seine, Minister of Culture; and Jean François-Poncet, Minister for Foreign Affairs and son of the late Ambassador who died in 1954.

Every year the Centre receives about 30,000 copies of newspapers and magazines, million and a half paper newsprint.

The accommodation area at the Bibliothèque Nationale and its annex at Vers, opened in 1934, is no longer adequate.

For a start, the Centre houses 10,000 copies of newspapers now at Vers, including the *Gazette of the first Paris daily, Le Journal de Paris* of 1777, *L'Ami du Peuple* of 1791, *Marat's paper: Le Vieux Cordelier*, 1793; *Le Moniteur Universel*, 1809; *Le Constitutionnel*, 1830; and *La Rue de Valois*, which was only a few months old.

Three microfilm reels made of each daily news one for preservation, one reproduction and one for sale. They will be kept in air-conditioned rooms.

The most difficult task is conservation of the original copies. Owing to the poor quality of newspaper paper, high acid content, they very rapidly if exposed to splits at the fold and fall pieces in the long run, Therese Kleinendienst, the secretary-general of the Bibliothèque Nationale, explained. They are treated in a special laboratory which will be opened early.

Four sentences to death for Mauritania coup

Nouakchott, March 24. Four Mauritania officials accused of taking part in a failed coup here eight days were sentenced to death by special court today.

They were Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Salim C. Sidi and Lieutenant-Colonel Abdelkader Ould Bah, said to be the coup leaders, Lieutenant Niang Mustafa and Lieutenant Doudou Seck. Five non-military officials were sentenced to hard labour for 10 years.

President Muhammad Kh. Ould Haïdalla has 24 hours which he can commute death sentences.

The two senior officers were reported to have lived recently in Morocco, where they led an alliance of groups opposed the Nouakchott Government. Mauritania has attempted coup and several diplomatic relations with Morocco have been severed any involvement.—Reuters.

Libyan influence grows in war-shattered Chad

Ndjamena, March 24.—There

is no water supply and no post office or telephone service in Chad, electricity functions only for 12 hours a day, the Central Bank is closed and the Government is broke.

But Chad, ravaged by a devastating nine-month civil war which ended last December after a controversial Libyan intervention, is trying hard to dig itself out of the ruins.

Plagued by drought and one of the poorest countries in the world, Chad is now even more impoverished and the work of reconstruction will be enormous. The unhealed wounds of battles between the warring factions can be seen everywhere.

The control tower at the airport has been hit many times by light artillery, but miraculously it is still standing and working.

The main airport terminal is a complete wreck, with no roof, girders twisting crazily, and a main staircase being functionless. Immigration officials handling the few aircraft that arrive here

work at charred desks surrounded by fire-blackened walls. Along the road to the city centre, vendors sell petrol in big bottles because the petrol stations are all closed. They have brought the petrol across the Shari river in pirogues from the Cameroon town of Mousseri.

Nothing is left of the cathedral except its striking, arched facade with a giant cross surrounded by bullet holes. The rest is rubble, the result of a direct hit.

The barracks of the National Guard, the Palace of Justice and the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications all appear to have been gutted and abandoned. The rectory of the University of Chad is an empty shell. The American Embassy and thousands of homes, businesses, and restaurants are in ruins.

It will take vast effort and money to bring this capital back to life with any degree of efficiency. But, despite everything, Ndjamena does function within severe limits.

At the Hotel La Chadienne, Mr Noel Daillo, the head waiter, proudly shows the shell-hole in his plates cabinet and the bullet-pocked ceiling, but his dining room functions well with a limited menu and serves an excellent local beer which managed to survive the civil war.

The hotel resumed operating after the civil war ended with help from Libya, which provided sheets, towels and curtains. Mr Daillo said. Another sign of life here is the local market, which is bustling although supplies are limited. The economy is paralysed, however, because the Central Bank is closed. Local businesses and private banks are waiting for it to reopen before making any further moves themselves. In the meantime, there is an acute shortage of currency in circulation.

Chad's French-backed CFA franc, used here and elsewhere in French-speaking Africa, are being spent importing essential supplies from Kousséri. This has meant that the Libyan dinar, now circulating here, is assuming increasing importance as a means of trading.

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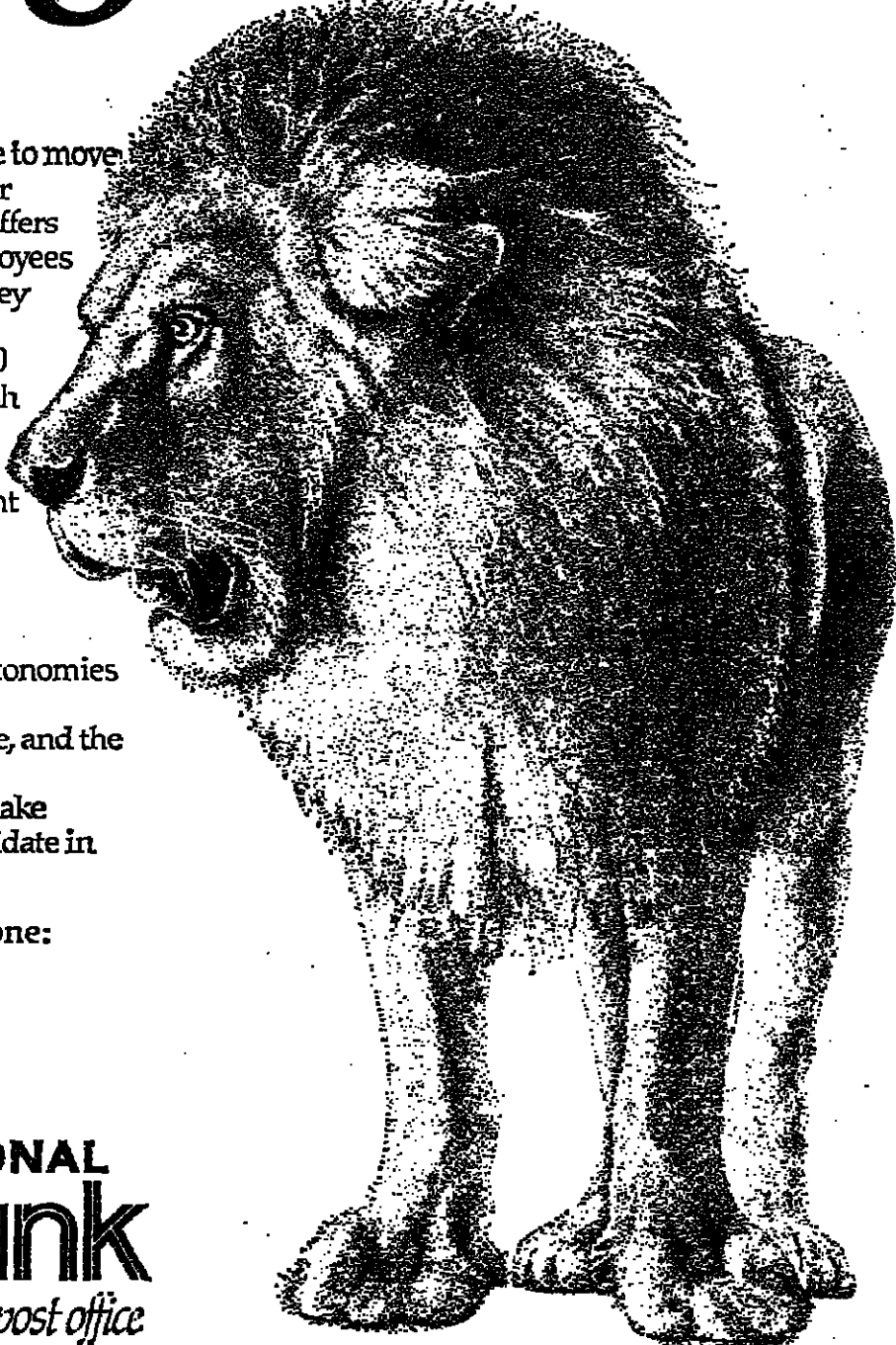
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Differences over Greek-Turkish arms balance hamper Athens negotiations on US bases

From Mario Modiano
Athens, March 24

American and Greek negotiators in the Athens talks on the future status of United States military bases in Greece are digging in their heels, although the talks have been accelerated to meet the Easter deadline set by the Greek Government.

With the negotiations entering their third month, the diplomatic and military teams meet daily. However, important divergences remain on the actual status of the bases, as well as on the extent and nature of the military aid Greece is to receive in return.

The Greek Government has told the Americans that the new agreement must be signed in time for ratification by Parliament before the Orthodox Easter recess in four weeks.

Otherwise the talks would have to be postponed until after the general election which is due in the autumn.

Evidently, the Government does not wish to turn the controversial question of the United States military presence in Greece into an electoral issue.

The Greek timetable brings pressure to bear on the United States Government to show greater flexibility or take the risk of having to negotiate later, perhaps with an unpropitious left-wing government.

So far the American negotiators are unwilling to give ground in the face of this

potential threat, arguing that they also have some non-negotiable positions.

The crucial issue is the extent of the United States military support for Greece. The Americans seem willing to exercise their "best efforts" to secure what is known as Greece's "wish list" of military equipment. They refuse, however, to be tied down to a specific list or to peg it to Turkey's list to maintain a fixed ratio of aid to both countries.

The Greek Government is pressing for a formal American commitment to a seven-to-10 ratio (in Turkey's favour) on the ground that this would preserve the balance of power in the Aegean.

The Reagan Administration told Congress this week that it did not believe that aid should be determined by precise ratios, although it had no objection to an increase of United States military credits to Greece from \$250m (£118m) to \$280m to keep a seven-to-10 ratio to Turkey's \$400m.

There are chances that this hurdle will be overcome by some American assurance in favour of a military balance between the countries in the region, "including" between Greece and Turkey. This is a formula already accepted by Congress, and it sets the Greek-Turkish arms race within the broader context of an East-West military equilibrium.

The issue may require some political decisions on a higher level. A visit to Athens by Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, should not be ruled out.

Once the problem of balance is resolved, there is bound to be less reluctance to broach such topics as command and control of the bases. The Americans agree that the military installations should be placed under a Greek commander, whose presence should, however, in no way interfere with the normal chain of command of the United States forces stationed at the base.

The Greek side wants the Greek commander to have effective control of all activities in these installations, in order to safeguard Greek sovereignty and ensure that the bases are not involved in non-Nato operations.

The Greeks insist on a formula that would limit the use of the bases to "obligations arising out of the North Atlantic Treaty", as stipulated also in the United States-Turkish agreement. The Americans would prefer a more flexible definition allowing the bases to be used for operations serving mutual defence interests.

This is important in view of American plans for a Rapid Deployment Force for eventual use in the Gulf, in which case the bases in Greece would acquire particular relevance.



Bus passengers in El Salvador waiting to be searched by troops looking for weapons and guerrilla suspects.

Another \$63.5m American aid for El Salvador

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, March 24

The United States announced today that it will provide El Salvador with an additional \$63.5m (£28m) of economic assistance to help the tiny Central American republic cope with urgent problems caused by the continuing civil war

between government forces and leftist guerrillas.

A State Department spokesman in Washington said that the additional aid would bring to some \$125.5m the total amount of economic help given to El Salvador during the current financial year.

24-hour truce: El Salvador's main left-wing guerrilla group

announced a halt to all attacks today in memory of the killing of the Archbishop of San Salvador, Mgr Oscar Romero, a year ago (Reuters reports from San Salvador).

A clandestine radio broadcast by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Movement (FMLN), the biggest of El Salvador's several guerrilla groups,

said it would not launch any attacks for 24 hours from midnight last night.

The broadcast came after an army statement that troops had been placed on the highest state of alert to counter the possibility of increased guerrilla attacks. There was no immediate Army comment on the FMLN announcement.

Right angry at S African election ban

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg, March 24

The disqualification of five candidates of the extreme right-wing Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP) from South Africa's general election on April 29 was described today as undemocratic by a leader of the anti-apartheid Progressive Federal Party (PFP).

Under new electoral laws, candidates of parties not represented in Parliament must submit petitions bearing signatures of 300 registered voters with their nominations.

Nomination courts which sat yesterday ruled out the candidature of five HNP candidates. The HNP, which is mounting its biggest effort to win a seat in Parliament, is to challenge the decisions in court tomorrow.

Mr Brian Bamford, chief whip of the official opposition PEP and an election candidate, has attacked the new 300-signature law. It was introduced by Dr Conrad Mulder, former Minister of Information and the Interior, who is fighting to regain a seat in Parliament as leader of the National Conservative Party (NCP).

Mr Bamford said the new system was undemocratic and discriminatory, and that it contravened the principles of the secret ballot by disclosing the affiliations of voters.

The HNP is particularly concerned about the disqualification of its candidate for the Transvaal constituency of Rustenburg where Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister, was heckled last week until plainclothes police moved in to stop disturbances.

Blacks fear Reagan tilt to Pretoria

From David Cross
Washington, March 24

Embarrassed officials at the State Department here are trying to find out why a highly controversial encounter between Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, the American representative at the United Nations, and South Africa's leading military intelligence officer has just come to their attention more than a week after it took place.

The disclosure of the encounter, which was originally denied by a State Department spokesman, has upset black African governments, who have long feared a tilt by President Reagan towards Pretoria.

American government policy since 1963, when the United States banned arms sales to

South Africa, has been to forbid consultations on military relations between the two countries.

When news of the visit to the United States by Lieutenant-General P. Van Der Westerhuizen, the head of South Africa's military intelligence, first became public last week, the State Department claimed that he and four companions had met only relatively junior American government officials.

In any case, the spokesman said last week the South Africans had returned home when the State Department discovered their real identity. Yesterday, however, the same spokesman was forced to admit that he had been wrong in denying any high-level meeting involving the South Africans.

He said the State Department was looking into the confusion.

The embarrassment felt by the State Department about the whole visit is deeper than it might otherwise have been because the new Administration is in the midst of working out its policy towards problems in southern Africa. It had already upset black African governments by allowing a delegation of pro-South African delegates from Namibia to visit Washington for talks with prominent right-wing Senators like Mr Jesse Helms, of North Carolina, and Mr Strom Thurmond, of South Carolina.

The Namibia delegation was led by Mr Dirk Mudge, head of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance. He also met Mrs Kirkpatrick.

Explosion at Tehran police HQ

Tehran, March 24—An explosion damaged part of the headquarters of Iran's network of revolutionary committees in Tehran early today, but there were no casualties.

A policeman outside the building said that a bomb had caused the explosion, but the official Pars news agency blamed an electrical short circuit.

Revolutionary committees were established in Iran after the 1979 revolution as a parallel police force, organized on a district level. They have wide powers of arrest and investigation and can hand offenders over to revolutionary tribunals for trial.

The heat of the explosion damaged ammunition stored in the building, causing a further series of explosions heard over much of central Tehran.

One wing of the headquarters in an office block, adjoining the former Chamber of the Majlis (Parliament), was blackened by smoke and appeared destroyed. But Pars, apparently trying to play down the incident, said there were no casualties or serious damage.

The explosion occurred early this morning and traffic was light because of the Iranian New Year holiday. The police tried to keep people away from the scene, while flak-jacketed youths, apparently members of the local committees, patrolled the building armed with automatic weapons.

Hawkish Sir Ian Gilmour denounces weak West

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

Vowing that Britain and the West must be prepared to resist Soviet expansion wherever it occurs, Sir Ian Gilmour, Lord Privy Seal and government spokesman on foreign affairs, last night gave a hawkish speech saying "there must be no threat force must be met with the threat force".

Sir Ian made it clear that he was speaking of action outside as well as inside, the Nato area.

Speaking to a meeting of the Bow Group last night, he declared that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was a "consequence of too many years of weak resistance by the West".

Reactions were changing. The West and non-aligned countries appreciated the Soviet threat, while even in Eastern Europe "the Polish people have demonstrated very clearly that whoever else may be overruled by Moscow they are not".

The West's greatest strength remained the "instruments of peace", Sir Ian said, but he noted that some people in the West were still equivocal over meeting force with the threat of force.

With reference to the 1945-49 Greek civil war and the 1950 invasion of South Korea, he said: "I make no apology for reminding you of the choices we as a nation and we in the West faced 30 and more years ago."

"Is the Soviet subjugation of

Afghanistan army more legitimate than the Red Army's subjugation of Eastern Europe in the 1940s?"

"Is the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia less brutal a use of force than Kim Il Sung's?"

"Is not the security of our oil supplies as vitally important to us now as it was 30 years ago?"

"In short, we must not allow our defenses to drop and must be prepared to resist Soviet expansion wherever it occurs."

Sir Ian said the current "cold peace" benefited no one, and he said it was important that there should be "high-level communication between leaders of East and West".

He voiced some differences with American policy on El Salvador and on rebuilding missile strengths.

On arms control agreements, Sir Ian said: "We do not believe the West should seek to regain military superiority over the Warsaw Pact powers. That is a stated objective of the Reagan Administration."

Senior Tory backbenchers last night tabled a Commons motion welcoming the Reagan Administration's decision to seek freedom of action in Angola.

Among the signatories deploring the continued presence of Cuban forces there were Mr Geoffrey Rippon, QC, Mr John Biggs-Davison, Mr Julian Amery, and other senior members of the Conservatives' backbench foreign affairs and defence committee.

Every time the price goes up, the queues outside shops grow longer

Soviet Union mesmerized by lust for gold

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, March 24

All that glitters on a Russian nowadays is gold. The self-contented young man on the train has his shirt half unbuttoned to reveal a large gold chain. On his fingers he wears huge gold rings. Altogether he is worth more than a thousand roubles (£330).

The shop assistant wrapping up parcels moves her hands in a slow, curious way, keeping her palms down. She is showing off the eight gold rings she is wearing. The young Georgian flashes a smile to reveal a mouth full of gold. He has not been in any accident—but persuaded the dentist to remove all his healthy front teeth and crown them with gold.

A mania for the yellow metal has gripped the country. Outside every jewelry shop there are long queues for gold. It is worn by men and women alike, at home and at work, with smart clothes and with jeans. Nowadays a Soviet woman is not considered dressed unless she has a flash of gold about her—even when she goes swimming she dives in wearing three chains and several rings to set off her bikini.

The newspapers have been unable to explain the new gold rush, and the authorities are doing their best to stop it; but every time the price of gold—produced from the Soviet mines whose output is a secret—goes up, the queues for it grow longer. The husband who cannot deck out his wife in the metal to which she is accustomed is likely to provoke a crisis. News papers are breaking up because wives were unable to afford as many rings as those worn by colleagues at work.

The craze started four or five years ago and has been gathering pace. At first it appeared to be connected with the trend to invest surplus cash in expensive durable objects—carpets, crystal, antique furniture and rare books, and the state naturally saw the way to a quick profit. Gold prices were raised successively in 1977, 1978 and 1979. In the past two years the metal has gone up 140 per cent in price.

But this only spurred the demand. Because gold was expensive and difficult to get hold of, it conferred that much more prestige to own and wear it. It was not simply a sign of wealth, but of status, connections, the ability to get what cannot be bought. To wear gold showed you had *blat*—influence.

Soviet women will happily skimp on food to save up for gold. Even schoolgirls, infected by the fever at home, appear in class in ear-rings and brooches, causing many a bitter tear from jealous classmates.

The state jewelry factories have naturally found it profitable to encourage the fashion. Silver has virtually disappeared from shop counters. All stones are mounted in gold, and the famous semi-precious stones from the Urals, enamelware pendants and the amber brooches are no longer to be found.

Soviet newspapers have protested that the fever will never be cured as long as only gold is found to decorate the female form. The chief engineer of the state jewelry enterprise re-

torred a few days ago that modern designs were more varied than ever, that semi-precious stones were all on sale and that more than 3,000 different types of jewelry were now on hand.

But the newspaper commented bluntly: "It is pleasant to read about such abundance, but it would be more pleasant to see it in the shops!"

In Russia, where there is a shortage, there are queues. Last summer *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, the youth newspaper, mused philosophically on the old kerchiefed grandmothers who stood in line for gold for their daughters and granddaughters: "They stand patiently as only their generation knows how. They used to stand in line for hours for bread, and they learn patience. Now that experience is serving them well: they are queuing for gold."

"Yes, we live much better now than we used to; but just think how many worthwhile things could be done in that time and with that money if all this wealth were used intelligently!"

MEPs begin work as staff strike is suspended

From David Wood
Strasbourg, March 24

After more than one hitch, the special plenary session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg opened a day late today, but the strike of more than half the 2,000 staff is so far only suspended.

Everything now depends on a general staff meeting in Luxembourg tomorrow morning to vote on some modest concessions offered today by the Parliament's managerial bureau.

Mr Julian Priestley, the moderate strike leader, and his principal colleagues admitted to the Strasbourg picket line that "it will be bloody difficult" to end the strike. But Mr Priestley will recommend acceptance of the Parliament's offer that parliamentary committees and party groups will be free to decide to meet in Luxembourg, rather than Brussels.

Parliament has apparently

not yielded on its principle that the staff cannot dictate where MEPs shall meet. Strike leaders say that the leaders of two party groups (the Christian Democrats and Liberals) have already agreed to use Luxembourg, and the communist group leader will put the proposal to his members; but the Anglo-Danish European Democratic group, like the big Socialist group, will not consider deserting Brussels.

In a multilingual Parliament, availability of interpreters is the decisive factor. Twice today the Parliament's sitting had to be suspended.

The staff strike appears to have had one or two beneficial consequences. Both strike leaders and MEPs have become more anxious about the damage being done to the European Parliament, and negotiations between the two sides are being conducted in a more enlightened spirit than last week.

Pakistan to deport six Western mercenaries

From Trevor Fishlock
Peshawar, March 24

The Pakistani Government tonight issued orders for the arrest and deportation of six men who apparently arrived here to offer their services as mercenaries on the side of the Afghan resistance.

A government statement said the decision to expel the men was "in conformity with the policy of the Government that it will not act as a conduit for arms and men".

The presence of the six men in the North-West Frontier Province was disclosed at the weekend after three of them talked to reporters in Islamabad about their hopes of joining guerrilla bands fighting against Soviet and Afghan forces.

Two of the biggest of the resistance groups based in Peshawar made it clear they wanted nothing to do with mercenaries.

The presence of the men, five British and an American, is an embarrassment to the Pakistanis, who are acutely aware of their propaganda value to the Russians and the Kabul Government.

Some of the men have been staying at hotels in Peshawar, trying to make contact with resistance groups.

\$500m aid: As part of its continuing campaign to bolster its allies in South-West Asia against possible Soviet aggression, the United States has decided to offer Pakistan some \$500m (£227m) of military and economic aid for next year (David Cross writes from Washington).

This is more than twice the annual assistance offered by President Carter to the Pakistani Government a year ago. Washington's last offer of about \$400m over a two-year period was rejected by President Zia-ul-Haq as "peanuts". It is not yet clear here what the fate of the proposed package will be.

Administration officials said that Pakistan was being offered about \$400m of weapons sales credits and some \$100m of economic aid during the next fiscal year which begins this autumn.

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PARLIAMENT, March 24, 1981

Minister backs idea of training with Army for young unemployed

House of Commons

Many young people would like the opportunity of spending a bit of time with the armed forces. Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, said.

He stated that the Manpower Services Commission was currently considering proposals for a pilot scheme under which 1,000 unemployed young people would receive training in the Army for a period of up to six months. He expressed the views of the commission shortly.

Mr Frank Allana (Salford, East, Lab): Do not school leavers need industrial training, not military training, training for life and not killing? What kind of system is it that offers 17-year-olds the choice of being unemployed or going into the Army?

Mr Prior: He should not allow his prejudices to run away with him. This would be an entirely voluntary scheme. There are many young people who would like to have a bit of time in her Majesty's forces.

I am by no means certain that the MSC will ever recommend this scheme, but I have no doubt that I know of many young people who would like to take on a period of time serving the Queen where they will learn loyalty, self-discipline, respect and esprit de corps. (Conservative cheers.)

Mr Prior: Apart from all those estimable qualities they can have training for a whole range of skills which they are people more likely to get through this scheme than many others.

Mr Richard Douglas (Dunfermline, Lab): Would he even consider the matter a little more seriously than that?

There will be objections if the idea of this scheme were associated with what loosely might be called 'square bashing'. Will he look at the difficulties that might be available for apprentices in the Royal dockyards?

Mr Prior: I hope nobody will think I am not taking this matter seriously. I have been emphatically clear that we should look carefully at this sort of scheme.

There are some difficulties about the level of recruitment and the level of training in the Royal Navy dockyards and other defence establishments, but generally speaking we need to encourage as many apprenticeships there as we can afford.

Mr Eric Varley, chief Opposition spokesman on employment (Chesham, Lab): What the minister has just said has many serious implications. We want to know a lot more about the proposed scheme before we give it any kind of support.

Will he undertake that if the MSC goes ahead and approves the scheme, he will make a statement in the House so that we can go over the matter thoroughly before committing young people to a scheme of this kind?

Mr Prior: I will raise this in the House. This is the thin end of the wedge.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition (Edinboro, Lab): Since he has been so reticent about matters that take place in Cabinet would he give his views, or maybe the views of the Prime Minister, on the speech made at the weekend by Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture?

Mr Whitehead: I think he said in his speech at Worcester that the Conservative Party would be the governing party of Britain for another half century. I entirely agree and only wish I was going to be there to see it. (Laughter.)

Mr Foot: I invite him to stick around for a little longer. (Renewed laughter.) Did he also raise the question of the youth unemployment and training programmes announced by the Secretary of State for Employment the other day?

Mr Whitehead: I think the Minister of Agriculture has been much higher than it is?

Does he agree with all that public expenditure on the youth unemployment and training programmes announced by the Secretary of State for Employment the other day?

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Treasury have not forecast 3.5 million unemployed

Reports that the Treasury had

forecast 3,500,000 unemployed by 1982 or 1983 were incorrect, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, said during exchanges on the latest unemployment figures.

The Government was giving support through various schemes, he added, to about 1,214,000 people.

Mr Prior (Lowestoft, C) stated that at March 12, the provisional number of people registered as unemployed in the United Kingdom was 2,454,712.

The seasonally adjusted rise of 77,000 announced today (Tuesday) confirms the trend that the rate of increase in recent months is slower than it was at the end of last year. Despite this better trend, we remain deeply concerned at the rapid increase and high level.

Mr David Wainick (Walsall, North, Lab): These figures are an appalling indictment of this Government.

Is it true that the Treasury have forecast unemployment will rise to 3,500,000 in 1983? How long does he intend to go along with such disastrous policies?

Mr Prior: It is not true that the Treasury have forecast 3,500,000 by 1982 or 1983. The figures are still serious, but

whether we get over our problems quickly or not depends on the state of the economy.

Mr Michael Ancram (Edinburgh, South, C): While welcoming the news today that the overall unemployment figure in Scotland has fallen this month and while not wishing to read too much into a single month's figures, do they not wonder at the falling unemployment of the Scottish economy? That bodes well for the future.

Mr Prior: Yes, we are pleased that the increase in unemployment in Scotland over recent months was not as high as in other parts of the United Kingdom.

Scotland does have the advantage of the North Sea oil, but it is a good sign that at last it is beginning to

show some benefit from investment in the past.

Mr James Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent, South, Lab): As there are many women workers in industry like the potteries who do not work when they are unemployed, does the Government agree that the real figure of unemployment is now over three million?

Mr Prior: It is the case any responsible Minister would either fight in the Cabinet to reverse these economic policies or resign.

Mr Prior: I do not accept that he has got the figure right. There are always a number of people who do not register when they lose their jobs and there have always been a number of people who do not register who are not available for work.

The Government is giving support through various schemes to something like 1,214,000 people in jobs, but through temporary and short-term working schemes. This shows clearly that the Government does care about the level of unemployment.

Mr Kenneth Wootton (Barnes, Lab): The Green Paper on immunities is necessary to improve these practices. Would such legislation be possible within the next Queen's Speech?

Mr Prior: It is not only trade union practices but other practices as well. The Government must take responsibility over a period of 20 years or more.

As for trade unions there is no doubt that if we go on paying out more and more money for little extra work we shall run ourselves into even greater problems of uncompetitiveness.

In the last 10 years output has increased by 1 per cent a year—10 per cent in 10 years—and during that 10 years we have paid ourselves 350 per cent more money. That is the way to ruin and high unemployment.

Mr Cyril Smith (Rochdale, Lab): One of the additional contributory factors to the scandalous level of unemployment is the buying policy of the Government departments and of huge industries such as British Leyland, which are being financed by British taxpayers' capital.

For example, the Ministry of Defence has bought more than £1 billion worth of goods from abroad that have previously been purchased from textile companies in this country.

Even in the last second day of the British Leyland has placed an order in France where that order

has always been placed with a textile company in Britain.

Mr Prior: Certainly Government departments have instructions that wherever possible they are to buy British goods.

If there are any cases such as that where any MP believes that goods are being bought from abroad that a Government could not do better than to look at the matter and see if it should be changed.

Mr Prior: I can give no answer to that. Any more than the Government were able to answer when they thought employment would fall to the level that it inherited.

The Government's economic policy is in ruins. It is more than likely that it will be replaced by a more sensible policy in the next few years.

Mr Prior: It is certainly incorrect to say that the Government's economic policy is in ruins. It is more than likely that it will be replaced by a more sensible policy in the next few years.

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Majority of 164 for regulatory powers of Lloyd's Bill

Sir Graham Page (Crosby, C), the sponsor of the Lloyd's Bill, which is designed to improve the self-regulation of the insurance market, said today that he was confident that members of Lloyd's to refrain from voting on the second reading.

Mr Jack Straw, an Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs (Blackburn, Lab), on a point of order, said there was an issue about whether MPs who were members of Lloyd's had a direct pecuniary interest which was involved in the Bill.

There were 53 MPs who were members of Lloyd's, including 3 members of the Government. Some were brokers or underwriters, others were members of the public who had £100,000 at least, which was put at risk.

For members of Lloyd's to vote on the Bill would be inconsistent with the standards of public life which the public had come to expect.

The Speaker (Mr George Thomas) said that if any MP had the slightest doubt about whether he had a pecuniary interest in the matter he should not vote.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition (Edinboro, Lab): Since he has been so reticent about matters that take place in Cabinet would he give his views, or maybe the views of the Prime Minister, on the speech made at the weekend by Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture?

Mr Whitehead: I think he said in his speech at Worcester that the Conservative Party would be the governing party of Britain for another half century. I entirely agree and only wish I was going to be there to see it. (Laughter.)

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council which would require the affirmative approval of both Houses of Parliament.

The Bill, which was introduced by Sir Graham Page, was designed to improve the self-regulation of the insurance market, and to provide for the regulation of Lloyd's for 72,000 people.

Its constitution had proved important in respect of the effective control and advancement of the society's proper functions in the insurance market.

The procedure was cumbersome. Under the Bill a new Council of Lloyd's would be constituted to replace the existing committee. Also cumbersome was the disciplinary procedure, and the promoters of the Bill wanted to give the new Council power to set up proper disciplinary bodies.

Just as important was the power to give the new Council the power to investigate and discipline members of Lloyd's who were not responsible and handling documents to the police.

These were formidable weapons which would be used to attack the malpractices and fraud in the insurance market.

Mr Kenneth Wootton (Barnes, Lab) said he had reservations about the Bill, but he was not happy that it would be dealt with by a second reading.

Mr Wootton (he said) for a commitment that the principle itself will be abandoned and that the Bill will be brought back to the House for a second reading.

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without destroying the character of the institution. There might be a case for changing individual provisions of the Bill, but for its overall character, there was clearly a case for preserving the institutional framework.

The proposed amendment on legal immunity would allow the matter to be fully and properly considered, if by-law on immunity was adopted by special resolution, the Secretary of State would be prepared to consider it and if satisfied to bring it before the House and Parliament for approval.

This was the quickest way for the new regulatory machinery to be established. It enabled consultation with all interested parties to start soon and required for Parliament the right to decide, in the light of the evidence, what degree of immunity was right.

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Central, Lab) said it was vitally important for Lloyd's to introduce a Bill to revise its procedures. The Bill, which was introduced by Sir Graham Page, was designed to improve the self-regulation of the insurance market, and to provide for the regulation of Lloyd's for 72,000 people.

Its constitution had proved important in respect of the effective control and advancement of the society's proper functions in the insurance market.

The procedure was cumbersome. Under the Bill a new Council of Lloyd's would be constituted to replace the existing committee. Also cumbersome was the disciplinary procedure, and the promoters of the Bill wanted to give the new Council power to set up proper disciplinary bodies.

Just as important was the power to give the new Council the power to investigate and discipline members of Lloyd's who were not responsible and handling documents to the police.

These were formidable weapons which would be used to attack the malpractices and fraud in the insurance market.

Mr Kenneth Wootton (Barnes, Lab) said he had reservations about the Bill, but he was not happy that it would be dealt with by a second reading.

Mr Wootton (he said) for a commitment that the principle itself will be abandoned and that the Bill will be brought back to the House for a second reading.

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Proper approach to damages for unlawful detention of goods

Export body gave negligent advice

A compact monthly survey of all the major legislation and case law in Europe.

There he confessed that he had been a communist while in England at Cambridge University, had been recruited to

surveillance of hostile agents operating

When Blunt won two weeks' grace

For many months, Blunt served as the M15 officer in charge of the "watchers", the men and women who carry out surveillance of hostile agents.

surveillance of hostile agents. operations

nd endangered 1981.

A compact monthly survey of all the major legislation and case law in Europe.

Age Group	Percentage of Respondents
18-29	65
30-49	75
50-69	80
70+	85

Residential Property

Extra rooms can give you extra income

With hotel prices rising the demand for self-catering holiday accommodation becomes greater, as many house owners are discovering. Where the house is in a picturesque area, any surplus accommodation can become the source of useful extra income with a minimum of maintenance effort. Such a property is Passford Farm Cottage, Boldre, near Lymington, Hampshire, between the Solent and the New Forest.

The cottage is believed to be fifteenth century, and is a picturesque property with exposed timbering and accommodation, including two main reception rooms, a study and three bedrooms.

It stands in about five acres,

and includes an unusually large range of outbuildings; a former coaching stable has already been converted into a separate bungalow with a combined sitting and dining room and two bedrooms.

Above it is a large loft which could be made into a separate subject to planning permission. There is also a large two-storey brick and slate barn which could probably be converted into further accommodation. The property is for sale at about £135,000 and the agents are Fox and Sons of Lymington.

Extra self-contained accommodation is also provided by Laurel House, Somerleyton, near Lowestoft on the Norfolk and Suffolk border. Believed to date from about 1820 it was once occupied by the managing agent of the Somerleyton Estate and is well situated in a conservation area close to the coast and the Norfolk Broads.

It is a roomy property and has a drawing room 23ft long, two reception rooms and five bedrooms. In the garden is a former coach house recently converted into separate accommodation consisting of a living room with a kitchen extension, two bedrooms and bathroom. The price is £75,000 and the agents are

Strutt and Parker of Norwich. An elegant compact house is The Old Vicarage, Duxford, near Cambridge, which stands beside the village green. No definite date can be ascribed to the house which is early Georgian in character, although it is known that there was a vicarage on the site in the seventeenth century. Probably it is a mixture of periods.

Constructed of white-painted brick under a slate roof, it is approached through fine wrought iron gates. There are three reception rooms, five bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a good cellar. The garden, with a paddock, totals about 2½ acres. Offers over £130,000 are being asked through Lane Fox and Partners of London, and Swordeston of Saffron Walden.

Different in character is Midsummer House, Littlebury, Essex, which has a frontage to the River Cam. Thought to date back to about 1660, it has a grade two listing, as being of special architectural or historic interest and is built on a heavy timber frame with cream-coloured rendering.

A feature is a drawing room with some good timbering and an inglenook fireplace. There is an unusual combined hall and



Hope Court, at Hope Bagot, Shropshire: Georgian elegance at £160,000

sitting room with a gallery landing. As well, there is a dining room, study or playroom, five bedrooms and two bathrooms. There is half an acre of garden with the river as a boundary. Seavills of Chelmsford are asking about £115,000. Another property with a river

frontage is Willow House, Bray, near Maidenhead, Berkshire, which leads down to the River Thames. The property was probably built after the First World War and has two large reception rooms, a combined kitchen and breakfast room, five bedrooms and two bathrooms.

An attractive feature is the garden of about one third of an acre and includes a timber summerhouse and a large swimming pool. It has a frontage of about 100ft to the river, with a full-length landing stage and steps. The property is open to offers in the region of £175,000 and the agents are Giddy and Giddy of Maidenhead.

Water is also a feature of Hope Court, Hope Bagot, near Ludlow, Shropshire, which has a number of small lakes and pools in its gardens. Once a bird sanctuary it is still visited by large numbers of Canada geese. The house is Georgian and has a grade two listing.

Accommodation includes four reception rooms, a breakfast room, seven bedrooms and four bathrooms. Extensive outbuildings include a garage block for five cars, and attached to the block is a cottage with two reception rooms and three bedrooms.

The property extends to some 19 acres in which there is an area of woodland divided by a stream with small waterfalls. The price is £160,000 and the agents are the Hereford office of Knight Frank and Rutley.

A house with a lot of character is Bignell's Cottage,

Iichen Abbas, near Winchester, Hampshire, one of the old properties in the Iichen Valley and thought to date from about 1700.

It has a reception hall, three reception rooms, three bedrooms and two bathrooms. The land, including a paddock extends to just over an acre; there are fine views across the valley from the property. Offer in the region of £55,000 a being asked through the Winchester office of John D. Wood.

Possibly of fifteenth century origins, Glebe Cottage, Rotherbourne, near Fordingbridge, the border of Hampshire a Wiltshire, was at one time owned by the Church Commissioners as a garden cottage for the vicar of the local church. It is of cruck construction and has two interconnecting sitting rooms and three bedrooms.

The present owner acquired just over 20 years ago in excellent condition and virtually rebuilt it. The property, including a paddock, runs to some 6 acres and can be bought for about £73,500 through the Milton office of Jackson a Jackson.

Gerald E



Residential property



Cluttons

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THE ARTS

Majestic contributions to Dickensian scholarship

Picking the outstanding book of the year is a contentious and ill business, though fun. But in the long run, history is hard to see anything more important this year than two books that are published tomorrow: Volume V of the *Pilgrim Edition of The Letters of Charles Dickens* and the Clarendon edition of David Copperfield.

Both are majestic works of scholarship, establishing definitive texts that will not need revision until the Last Trump sounds the opening of the heavenly library. Both throw new light on one of our greatest writers. By a happy coincidence the letters from the year 1847 to 1849, cover the start of serial publication of *Copperfield*, revealing significant echoes and cross-references. Both are exquisitely printed, annotated, illustrated, appended, bound, and otherwise published by Oxford.

And Professor Kathleen Tillotson is a general editor of both stateside enterprises that will last until the crack of doom, though with lack publication will be finished before then. Our foremost Dickensian scholar has a fastidious distaste for personal publicity, emphasizing that what matters are the words, and the scholarship, and the teamwork of her distinguished colleagues and predecessors. But her 75th birthday on April 3 seemed a convenient excuse to bully her in giving her first interview to the press.

An example of the scholarship. In Volume IV of the *Letters* Dickens, who was doing a lot of foreign travel during the period, wrote that he had been looking for fireflies around Rome because he had read about them in his Dryden translation of Juvenal, or perhaps it was Horace, that he was lugging round with him in his bag. Several weeks work produced the terse footnote: "Horace nowhere mentions fireflies." Kathleen Tillotson says: "Much scholarship is the hunt to prove a negative, or to produce the melancholy gloss 'unidentified'." When she laughs, beneath hair as white as lamb's wool you see the face of the pretty scholarship girl from the north, Her flat, with a stunning view of Parliament Hill, is well-padded floor to ceiling with classical texts and reference books as well as English literature. Dickens fills the box room so that there is only just space for a small person to slip in sideways.

There are at least another seven volumes of the letters to come, followed by a massive index, and at least half a volume of addenda. When



Left: preliminary sketch by Hablot Knight Browne ("Phiz"), rarely seen before, for "I make my self Known to my Aunt"; right: the final version



Humphrey and Madeline House started, they knew of 12,000 letters. We now know of 13,452, and Professor Tillotson was just off to Sotheby's where eight previously unknown letters were coming up for sale.

Dickens was so prolific partly because he became famous so young. There were all the business letters, the fan mail, the charitable and political letters, and in the new volume the letters to *The Times* about the evils of public executions that stirred up vast

mail and uproar. Unlike Henry James or Virginia Woolf he was not interested in discussing the creative process in his letters. But just occasionally he lets us into his mystery. In the new volume he discusses the style of *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*, his last Christmas book: "As the inventor of this sort of story, I may be allowed to plead that I think a little dreaminess and vagueness essential to its effect..."

Then there are the echoes. In a letter John Leech, the

artist, taken ill on the Isle of Wight, is "like a ship in distress, in a sea of bedclothes." Cf. David Copperfield, having a sleepless night worrying about Dora, and his poor aunt, and life: "I was always tossing about like a distressed ship in a sea of bedclothes." It was published eight months after the letter.

The creative process is better illuminated in the Clarendon edition, with its recension of the manuscript, variants, number plans, and comprehen-

sive apparatus criticus. The bits we have never seen before are so exciting. In the new *Copperfield* there is a lovely scene eventually cut by Dickens in which Steerforth is flirting with Mrs Gummidge, the lone lorn creature. "Just the type of a certain young lady who can get round old ladies", said the general editor, not too severely.

Five of the 15 novels are out in the Clarendon edition. *Christmas Carol* is in the Press. Several others are quite well on, in-

cluding a volume of miscellaneous papers. The admirable new Oxford paperback series of *The World's Classics* has just agreed to use the Clarendon texts with reduced apparatus and new introductions: *Oliver Twist* and *Domby* come next year. The great engine of scholarship rolls on, driven by its brilliant but self-effacing crew. We are lucky to live in a generation that can read such publications.

Philip Howard

The Grateful Dead Rainbow

Richard Williams

The Grateful Dead are unusual not merely because they have been together for 15 years with only one significant change in personnel but because, unlike the even longer-lived Rolling Stones or The Who, they have chosen not to broaden their scope or change with the times. Their music is exactly as it was in the early summer of 1970, when they made their British debut, and they continue to reflect with scrupulous exactness the era of their prime, now long past but evidently (to judge by the nature of Monday night's audience) still cherished in many hearts.

Smoking pace, they eased into their four-hour concert with a selection of songs recalling the early days of country rock, sung with their customary amateurish charm by the guitarists, Jerry Garcia and Bob Weir, given necessary support on the choruses by the group's newest member, Brent Mydland, who also played keyboards. Garcia's pretty "Sugarfree" and Weir's surprising version of "El Paso" were the best of these, rivalled by a trenchant blues incorporating Mydland's screaming Hammond organ.

It was fully an hour before they ventured into the first of their famously divertive collective improvisations, this one in a medium 7/4 tempo capably anchored by their two drummers, Mickey Hart and Bill Kreutzmann. Here Garcia was unleashed, to display his renowned pearly tone, stiff phrasing and utter lack of melodic imagination, well prompted by Weir's thoughtful chording, as outstanding throughout the concert as it was 11 years ago.

In addition to several of the more venerable items from their repertoire, the second half included "If I Had My Way", the gospel song once popularized by Peter, Paul and Mary, here given a slashing Bo Diddley rhythm with chattering drums (which showed off the relaxed, complementary nature of the relationship between Hart and Kreutzmann) and an untypically flashy but highly effective ending.

The audience's pronounced good nature was tested, however, by many lengthy silences, during which the guitarists adjusted their tuning with the aid of stroboscopic devices. Eventually this prompted the reflection that, if God had meant rock musicians to stay in tune, He would have taught them more than three chords.

Work is the Curse of the Drinking Classes King's Head

Ned Chaillet

Actors spend most of their time being other people, and one must forgive them for that. Some of the people they choose to be are quite charming or interesting, which is just as well. But when it comes to one-man shows, actors tend to become people we have all heard of, and so the lunchtime programmes at the King's Head Theatre, rouse Evelyn Waugh from the dead, without access to his own written words, or they give us a famous name with a pungent selection of his best written and spoken words, like this week's Oscar Wilde.

Wilde is much more enjoyable than most such excursions, although someone has designed a berserk lighting plot which often hides the character in shadows or a blinding glare.

From what I could see, there were some touches of Mr Tiley's costume that needed to be hidden.

He offers the Wilde of Paris, impoverished and disgraced by two years in an English jail, and yet he still strains to be fastidious, in his dress and in his wit. Mr Tiley's costume fails to help the characterization, for although he has painted his face a ghastly white, Wilde is dead, and wears white gloves and a white tie, his shoes and socks are a disgrace to impersonation. His vocal characterization is a more certain thing, honed to deliver the sharp jests and observations of Wilde's wit.

Mr Tiley has selected and connected his quotations with a good sense of the story that Wilde might tell, passing from fashionable fame to scorned ignominy with his eyes wide open. The show makes a special plea for understanding, which should no longer be necessary anyway, but it does offer a mordant self-knowledge. It is a good portrait, funny and melancholic, of the face behind Dorian Gray.

Melos Quartet Wigmore Hall

Joan Chissell

Obviously such masterpieces as the three last quartets in A minor, D minor and G and the string quintet of 1828 must form the cornerstones of the Melos Quartet's four Schubert recitals at Wigmore Hall. But as record collectors know, few artists in recent years have done more than this Stuttgart-based team for the 11 or so neglected quartets that Schubert wrote, his teens primarily for family pleasure. The chance of renewing acquaintance with half-a-dozen of them is not the least rewarding part of this welcome little festival.

No 4 in C Major came first in the third concert on Monday a choice which the opening movement alone would have justified with its remarkable chromatic introduction, its startling contrasts of dynamics and key, and its sudden silence, opening up a strange new world of romance.

From this they jumped to No 8 in B flat, of the following year, its 17-year-old composer having moved on from an orchestral style of scoring to truer quartet texture (even if still occasionally doffing his cap to Haydn, Mozart and early Beethoven) as well as achieving far greater subtlety in the first two movements, transitions.

As ever, the Melos were acutely responsive to every imaginative stroke. But both performances struck me as still more stylish than on their much praised recording, because they were a little more fleet and ringing, the point-making less self-conscious.

For "Death And The Maiden" after the interval they understandably broadened and intensified their style for dramatic effect. Not a note was left unnamed in pursuit of expression. Bigger climaxes were reinforced with uncommonly full-bodied tone and a strident bite in sforzandi. Sometimes their romanticism even sounded a little over-ripe. But it was certainly of the first order, culminating in a breathless, brilliant dance of death.

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions

Stuttgart novelties in London

The Stuttgart Ballet returns to London in June with a repertoire of eight works not previously performed by the company in Britain. It will open its two-week season at the London Coliseum on June 1 with John Neumeier's full-length *Lady of the Camellias*, to music by Chopin. In the second week it will present John Cranko's *Swan Lake*.

There will be two triple bills, with the first offering Jiri Kylian's *Sinfonia*, to music by Britten. Rosemary Hellwell's *Heidegger*, to music by Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, and Whimper Moon, choreographed by William Forsythe and Axel Manthey. In the second triple bill there will be Kylian's *Return to the Strange Land*, to music by Janacek. Heinz Spoerli's *Tramte*, to music by Wagner, and *Crane*, to music by Bernd Alois Zimmermann.

Antoinette Sibley and Anthony Dowell will appear with the Stuttgart Royal Ballet on April 1 in a special performance to mark the Fiftieth

anniversaries of the Royal Ballet and of the Sadler's Wells theatre. They will dance Ashton's *Soupirs*, *pas de deux*. On April 7 and 8 the company will present six ballets new to London audiences, including the premiere of David Bintley's *Night Moves*, set to Britten's *Variations* on a theme of Frank Bridge with Marion Tait and David Ashmore leading the cast. Another premiere will be Derek Deane's *To the Power of Two*, which will be danced by Lesley Collier, Jennifer Penney, Stephen Jerrett and Stacey Beagley to music from Tippett's *Concerto for Double String Orchestra*. The designs and lighting are by Anthony Dowell.

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Opera around Europe

La Périchole

Sadler's Wells

William Mann

The Singers Company have arrived in London again, bringing a week of Offenbach operetta (never too late for the composer's centenary) to Sadler's Wells Theatre in Rosebery Avenue. Their new production, of *Orpheus in the Underworld*, will be given later this week. They began on Monday with Peter Knapp's English version, and his production, of *La Périchole*, first put on two years ago at Riverside Studios, much toured since then, and shown on BBC television.

Périchole has always hovered on the verge of the Offenbach repertory outside France. It is the story of the Spanish viceroys in Peru who took a street-singer as his mistress, and, being obliged by private vow never to seduce unmarried women, had her wed to the first man drunk enough to agree. She also had been rendered inebriate before accepting the Viceroy's proposal, and at the wedding neither party could see the other. Next day, *Périchole* discovered that her husband was the sweetheart she had been too poor to wed.

After that, the plot by Meilhac and Halévy loses impetus, with one-and-a-half acts still to go. Offenbach's musical inspiration was still game: if the plumes seem as to have been delivered when Act Two begins, the most succulent of them, "Tu n'es pas beau, tu n'es pas riche", is saved until the prison scene in the last act. And there are numerous other delights less strong, but still treasured by Offenbach devotees.

For touring purposes, Knapp had the music re-scored by his conductor John Owen Edwards, for his company's small band, not much smaller than Offenbach's, but tending to modern show-biz sonority (the electric piano, quasi-harmonium, sounds cheap and nasty in this music). He sets the entire piece in a Paris café, frequented by Offenbach who cries out his new *opéra* there and then with the help of the customers. An impromptu atmosphere thus excuses the absence of scenery for the Viceroy's palace, the jail, and so on; it does not fully excuse the hectic romping and prancing into which the production has declined since it was new.

A show that went well in intimate surroundings at Riverside, or on television, finds itself uncomfortably exposed in the larger stage area of Sadler's Wells, and its pristine tautness begins to sag, like the libretto of *Périchole*. The band plays with spirit, and the production still has the prime blessing of Eirian James in the role of a trim, sparkling young mezzo-soprano, and a amiable range as a comic actress. Mike Bulman is a little tall, but a romantic Figaro. The Viceroy is now taken, with nervous avuncular relish, by Richard Suart, a drolly Dickensian impersonation.



The Act III quartet in *Rigoletto*, by the banks of the Mincio

Rigoletto

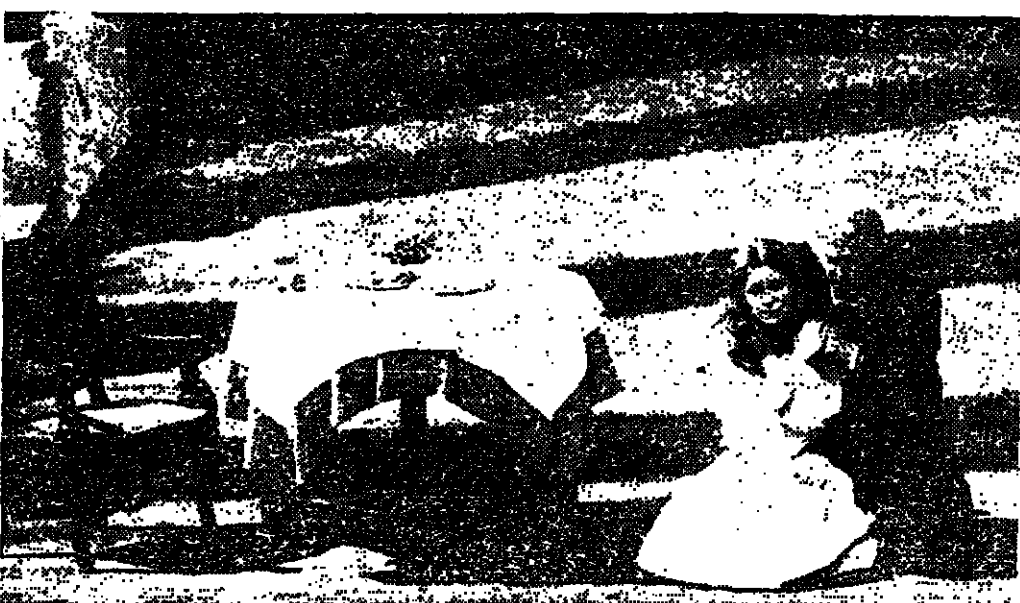
Grand Theatre, Geneva

John Higgins

Anyone who uproots *Rigoletto* from the sixteenth century, in which Verdi and his librettist, Piave, eventually decided to set their opera, does so at his peril. The curse of Montreux is likely to extend from *Rigoletto* through to the whole work, which is none too susceptible to change. In Geneva, however, Jean-Marie Simon has taken the risk and he comes within a whisker of total success.

The curtain rises on a stage set without rather than within the ducal palace. The terrace outside the ballroom looks out across the flatlands of Mantua to the river Mincio, which is to play an important role in the last act, winding its way down to the Po. Then Simon tricks his audience. The revellers are in the costume of the conventional *Rigoletto*, but through their number come other courtiers wearing the black frock-coats of early Victorian society. We are at a fancy-dress ball and the action which follows takes place in the period of Verdi's youth.

Simon argues in a brief programme note that Verdi was constantly forced by the censor to alter the time and place of his operas. Consequently his voice on occasion had to be muted. The lordlings who ruled in and round Mantua in 1830, or thereabouts, were much like the contemporaries of Machiavelli and had no compunction at all in dispatching those who did not fit in with the manners and morals of the court. Whether the curse of a non-conformist such as Montreux would have carried quite so much weight in the nine-



Valerie Masterson and Piero Cappuccilli

teenth century as in the sixteenth is rather more debatable. The main advantage in updating, which Simon leaves the audience to discover without adding his own comments, is that *Rigoletto* is turned from a costume piece into a domestic drama closer to the style of *Luisa Miller* and *La traviata*, works which precede and succeed it by two years apiece. *Rigoletto* (Piero Cappuccilli) is a hunchback not through any monstrous deformity but because the curse of the world have lain across his shoulders too heavily and too long. His tattered coat, his bushy white hair, his shambling gait and his habit of appearing shifty round the corners of darkened streets proclaim that he is long past joining in the debauchery of the Mantuan court. His solace is Gilda and his home is in one of the back streets with its upper courtyard above a high wall and the single old

tree and bench which Piave demanded. Jean-Marie Simon in common with several of our best opera producers began life as a designer. He worked with Zeffirelli and Visconti as well as with the two Peters, Brink and Hall. Their joint influences show in the punctiliousness with which the stage pictures are built up and in their ultimate beauty. The dawn of the opening act is lit in a way recalling Joseph Losey's film of *Don Giovanni*, which after all was filmed none too far away from Mantua—any moment Ottavio could have appeared being poled across the Mincio marshes.

But Simon's triumph undoubtedly is the final act where the same Mincio flows right across the centre of the stage, and a very different river it is from the one viewed from the Duke of Mantua's terrace. The banks are strewn with refuse and if all had gone according to Rigo-

These, though, are minor quibbles. Simon has drawn from Piero Cappuccilli, who can be an uncomfortably stolid figure on stage, a *Rigoletto* of great tenderness, an outcast at the court who suddenly finds his sole refuge broken into and burgled. Cappuccilli must have sung the role now almost 300 times: the voice remains firm and secure as a mighty rock, but more sensitive conductor than Nello Santi would probably have encouraged him to use a little more vocal colour.

Valerie Masterson, who now appears well over her vocal troubles of last summer, creates a fragile, timid Gilda. It is not the sort of interpretation that would be found in an Italian house but it accords admirably with the Simon interpretation. "Caro nome" was exquisitely shaped with no false display, the dreamy delight of a girl who has just been bowled over by her first boy. In the second act she was somewhat overpowered by Cappuccilli, but by the banks of the Mincio came back to full strength. It is good news that she will be returning to Geneva for Gounod's *Mireille* next season. Peter Dvorsky seems to have put on vocal weight since he last sang the Duke at Covent Garden: the start of phrases lacked clean attack, but he warmed greatly with the evening. Among the rest of the cast there was a powerful Spaford (Giovanni Foini), an indifferent Montreux (Ehus Hanak) and Gillian Knight-Maddalena, the sensuous siren of the Mincio.

Nello Santi's conducting had little to recommend it. The start was raucous and the improvement thereafter only modest. Geneva, which nowadays is looking such a strong house in other respects, needs improvement in the pit. There are further performances tomorrow, on Saturday, and on Tuesday.

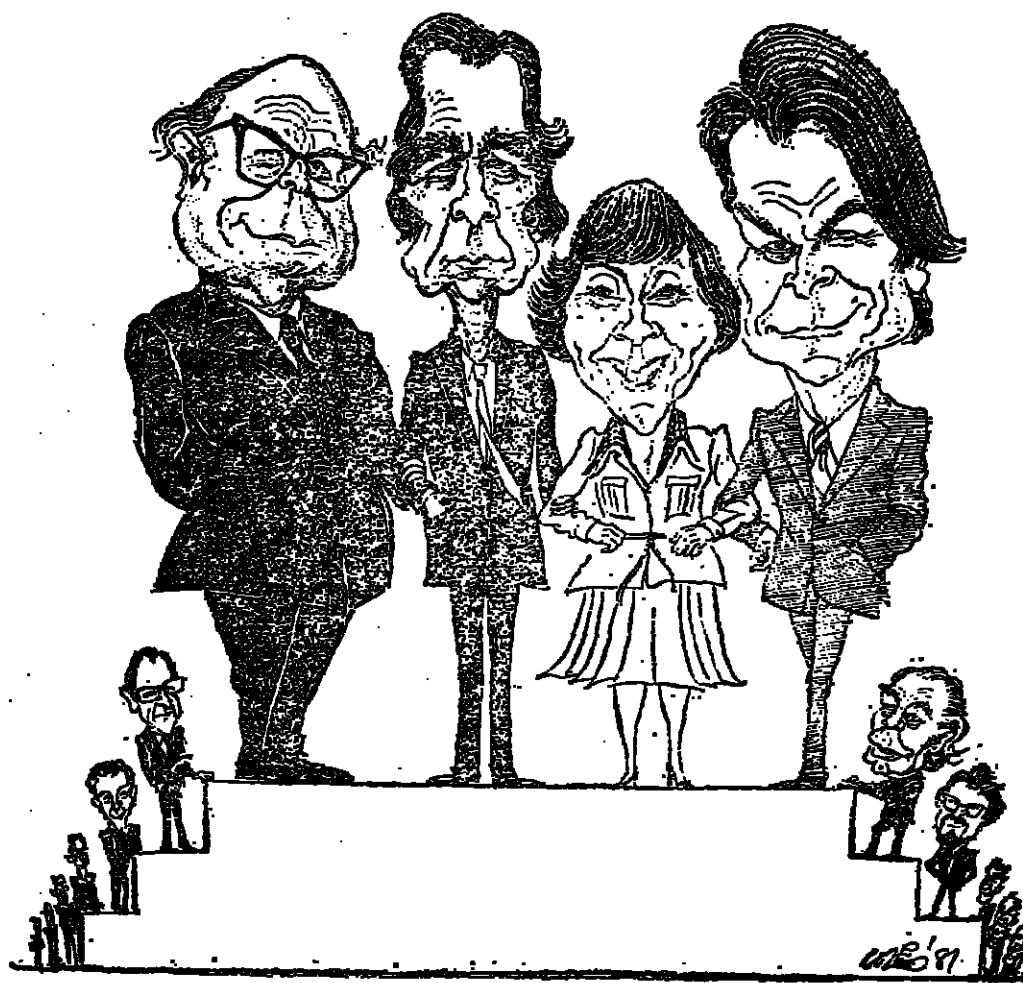
How the Social Democrats joined forces for their biggest gamble

The Times Political Staff examines the people behind tomorrow's launch of a new party

Leading Social Democrats from Parliament

House of Commons	Constituency	Majority at last election	House of Lords	Recent position*
Tom Bradley (L)	Leicester, East	2,856	Lord Ashby (C-B)	Chancellor, Queen's University, Belfast
John Cartwright (L)	Greenwich Woolwich, East	10,460	Lord Aylestone of Aylestone (L)	Secretary of State for Commonwealth Affairs 1966-67
Richard Crawshaw (L)	Liverpool, Toxteth	6,143	Lord Bullock of Leafield, Oxon (C-B)	Academic
Tom Ellis (L)	Wrexham	12,149	Lady Burton of Coventry (L)	Labour MP 1950-59
Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler (C)	Norfolk, North West	7,928	Lord Diamond of the City of Gloucester (L)	Labour Cabinet 1968-79
John Hiram (L)	Gateshead, West	8,312	Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge (L)	Minister for the Arts 1976-79
Edward Lyons (L)	Bradford, West	7,755	Lord Flowers (C-B)	Rector of Imperial College
Robert MacLennan (L)	Caithness and Sutherland	2,539	Viscount Hanworth (C-B)	Baron
David Owen (L)	Plymouth, Devonport	1,001	Lord Harris of Greenwich (L)	Minister of State, Home Office 1974-79
William Rogers (L)	Teesside, Stockton	11,127	Lord Hunt of Llanfair Waterdine (C-B)	Chairman, Parole Board, 1967-74
John Roper (L)	Farnworth	8,107	Lord Kennet of the Dene (L)	Member of European Parliament 1978-79
Neville Sanderson (L)	Hillingdon Hayes & Harlington	3,302	Lord Kilmarnock (C-B)	Chief of the Clan Boyd
Mike Thomas (L)	Newcastle-upon-Tyne, East	6,170	Lord Perry of Walton (C-B)	Vice-Chancellor, Open University
Tina Wrigglesworth (L)	Teesside, Thornaby	5,524	Lord Sainsbury of Drury Lane (L)	Joint President, J. Sainsbury Ltd
Former MPs			Lord Taylor of Gryfe (L)	Chairman, Scottish Railways Board Member of European Parliament
Roy Jenkins	MP for Setchford, Birmingham 1950-76		Lord Walton of Newton (L)	1975-77
Shirley Williams	MP for Hertford & Stevenage 1974-79		Lord Wilson of Langside (L)	Lord Advocate 1967-70
			Lord Winterbottom (L)	Lords Whip 1974-78
			Lord Young of Darlington (L)	President of Consumers' Association

L: Labour. C: Conservative. C-B: Cross benches. * Not a complete list of appointments.



He was one of those, for example, who led and maintained the campaign for the publication of the so-called Underhill Report into Trotskyist entryism into the party.

His quiet courage even led him to disagree with Roy Jenkins over In Place of Strife. Mr Jenkins's resignation as deputy leader of the Labour Party was probably one of Mr Bradley's biggest disappointments. He actively urged him to stay on and continue the battle over Europe and other issues.

A former chairman of the Labour Party, Mr Bradley has roots which push deep into the movement. A Bevin boy, he worked underground in the mines and as a politician rose through local councils and his unions, unsuccessfully standing as a Labour candidate in a number of parliamentary seats before reaching Westminster in 1962.

Mr Richard Crawshaw (Liverpool, Toxteth), a barrister, who still likes to be known by his military rank, lieutenant-colonel (he served with distinction in the Royal Artillery and the Parachute Regiment), was a theological student before the war. He was much respected as a member of the Commons chairman's panel, noted for his fairness and commonsense whenever there was a dispute in committee. And he was Deputy Speaker between 1979-81.

He is a keep-fit enthusiast and has earned a lot of money for charities on his long-distance sponsored walks.

Mr Tom Ellis (Wrexham), son of a miner, is a quintessential Labour romantic who sharpened his attitudes on the sparse, unromantic poetry of his Welsh hero, R. S. Thomas. Armed with an honours degree in chemistry, he worked for ICI for two years until the nationalisation of the coal mines and decided to return whence he came, taking a massive reduction in salary and working down the pit. With his education and ideological commitment to the mines, the National Coal Board was away from the coalface back to college and eventually to a colliery in his constituency where he was manager for 14 years before being elected as MP for Wrexham.

But Westminster quickly undermined the romantic attitude to politics, disenchanted setting in when he was on the Labour team that fought Sir Geoffrey Howe's Industrial Relations Bill in committee. He found he could not share the view of his Labour colleagues.

Mr Robert MacLennan, barrister (Caithness and Sutherland) is strongly pro-European and has been a Labour frontbencher spokesman on Scottish affairs and defence. He was Parlia-

mentary Under-Secretary, Department of Prices and Consumer Protection in 1974-79.

After launching the party in Edinburgh and Aberdeen tomorrow, Mr MacLennan will attend the Scottish Liberal Party conference in Glasgow on Friday and Saturday. He was sent to Silcock's boarding school when his parents inherited money from his grandfather.

From there he won an exhibition to Cambridge, gaining a degree in economics, and later became a journalist on *The Financial Times* and *The Economist*.

Mr Hiram campaigned from the Labour backbenches for development agencies in the regions, as well as in Scotland and Wales, and in 1976 was appointed a junior minister for transport when Mr William Rogers was head of the department.

Mr Wrigglesworth (Thornaby, Teesside) came up through the Labour political nursery fighting the left-wing inside the National Union of Students in the 1960s he was a vice-president of the NUS.

The son of a foreman fitter on Teesside, he has known his constituency from childhood. He first went into a bank but left

one of the moderate MPs who started to organize a counter to the Tribune group of Labour MPs. It was out of these meetings that the Manifesto group was born.

Mr Hiram's childhood was spent above the Preston newspaper's shop run by his mother. His father was a fitter—but was sent to Silcock's boarding school when his parents inherited money from his grandfather.

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The son of a foreman fitter on Teesside, he has known his constituency from childhood. He first went into a bank but left

to attend a teacher's training college in London, then, in another switch, he studied to become a probation officer.

His political career began as personal assistant to the general secretary of the National Union of Teachers. Later he was research and information officer to the National Co-operative Party.

When he was elected to Parliament he joined the Manifesto group and also became PPS to Roy Jenkins.

Another North-east stalwart of the Co-op movement is Mike Thomas (Newcastle East), at 36 the youngest of the group. The son of a Liverpool heating and ventilating engineer he went to Liverpool University and represents the "posh" smug being applied to the Social Democrats. He was elected in 1974, was parliamentary private secretary to Roy Hattersley,

He had no time for the theorising of the Labour left, and was ever alert to publishing the counter-attack of the Labour moderates. He also launched the "House Magazine", the weekly journal of parliament. Prior to resigning from Labour he circulated all his constituents, at his expense, soliciting their advice on what his decision should be.

Acting as whip in the Commons of the new group is John Roper (Farnworth). The son of a Congregational minister, he went to Oxford, became an economics lecturer and, by way of time at Chicago University, is the only one of the group to have direct knowledge of the teachings of Professor Milton Friedman. He was active in organizing (in vain) the attempt to get proportional representation for the European Assembly through the Commons.

There were three MPs who did not resign in the initial flush of enthusiasm—two Labour and the lone Conservative, John Cartwright (Greenwich Woolwich East), an ally on the NEC of Shirley Williams and Tom Bradley, agonised longest before he would become an MP in 1974. He had been an executive grade civil servant, a professional Labour agent and then a political secretary in the Co-operative movement.

A grammar school boy from Woking, Cartwright has a rather austere manner, but his interest in defence and EEC policies and his association with Shirley Williams led him, via the Manifesto group, of which he was the previous past chairman, straight to defection.

The last Labour man to jump was Edward Lyons (Bradford West), a QC and Recorder. He had fought a running battle with Militant Tendency activists in his local party and latterly the moderates had come out in support of him. Some of them defected with him. Son of a Jewish tailor, Lyons, aged 54, served in the Royal Artillery during the war and did a course as a Russian interpreter before taking up law. Elected in 1966, he has been highly critical of trade union abuses.

The lone Tory, who dramatically crossed the floor of the Commons last week, is Mr Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler (Norfolk North-West). Long a vehement critic of Mrs Thatcher, his disaffection with Tory policies was no surprise.

He had been a former chairman of the Bow Group—which allowed its members to say that it was not true they had become purely right-wing. Son of a solicitor, he did not have a university education but had wide experience of farming here and in Kenya.

Lady Burton of Coventry, a former world champion sprinter, has won fame as the champion of the consumer, notably her successful campaign to get British Airways to maintain a check-in point in Gloucester Road. She is now trying to persuade the airlines to change their booking methods to avoid overbooking and is working on what she calls "bucket shops" in the travel and holiday trade.

Fred Emery, George Clark and Michael Hatfield

Bernard Levin

Hold the front page: nothing has happened

It is well known that no news is good news; what is less widely understood is that good news is bad news. And this particular bit of truly significant news has not yet, apparently, penetrated to China, where the authorities have decreed, according to a report by the *Daily Another Paper's* inquisitive and entertaining Peking correspondent, Graham Earsworth, that only good news is to be reported and that stories of such negative matters as crime and corruption are no longer to be published. Stories of upright citizens labouring tirelessly are the thing; a lady who worked in a factory labouring at the production of toothpaste for the state and, when she died, bequeathed all of which she died possessed to the said state, has been posthumously and publicly canonized, as have two men who were drowned while trying to rescue a girl who had fallen into a river. (I am not sure that the newspaper which reported the latter story had fuller got the hang of the new rules, surely it could have better filled the space with accounts of girls who had not fallen into the river in the first place.)

It won't work, I'm afraid. The heirs of Mao are only the latest in the long line of those who have dreamed the same dream: that if you do not draw attention to the darkness, it will turn to light of its own accord. The hunger is constantly making itself felt in this country, too; it's a poor month that doesn't see a letter in the newspaper or another complaining that the press only prints bad news. Yet a newspaper which accepted the premise of this Pathetic Fallacy and published nothing but that which can be seen through rose-coloured spectacles would speedily find its readers deserting in their numbers to rivals unafraid of pointing out that life is not altogether a bowl of cherries, and the only reason that such a fate will not overtake the Chinese papers under the new dispensation is that the readers have no rival sheets to desert to.

Words are not things, nor things words. If (and the Chinese rulers are just the lads to try it) the entrance to a sewage-farm were to be decorated with a sign 40 feet high bearing the message "4711 Made Here" can you assure those whom it might concern that the surrounding air would still not be fragrant with the scent of eau de cologne, or even roast chicken. Portraying the Chinese people as free of all blameworthy and the life they lead as no less untroubled by mischance, will not make them so: if it has any effect at all, it will serve only to alienate the people from their leaders, for whatever else the Chinese may be, they are plainly not daft, and they will speedily take the measure of the difference between what their rulers tell them and what they can see with their own epicurean-laden eyes.

The problem can be summed up in a dozen words: we do not wish to be told that which we already know. We know that most husbands do not murder their wives, that few bank managers abscond with the funds, that although some aeroplane crash, far more arrive safely, that not every dog will bite. And we know these things for a reason far deeper and more important than that proffered by the statisticians which bear out our convictions. We are instinctively possessed of the truth that the universe runs on the principle that the bad is the exception to the good; they are not equal, and the Manifesto group, which we know that every day many people are injured in road accidents, many robbed or assaulted by villains, many struck by an infinite variety of the slings and arrows of outrageous failure. Yet we do not go about the streets

thinking that our next mom is going to be our last one, even our last trouble-free one because although we may believe that there's a divinity doth shape our ends, rough-taken how we may, we do believe, rightly, that normalcy is normal.

And it follows from this that what attracts our attention; awakens our interest is the ception, which means, broad speaking, the bad news, headline reading "Neg 55,000,000 people not struck lightning in Britain last year" will not sell newspapers, I will it deserve to. And I do not believe that things are a different in China, where news item in the *People's Daily* recording the fact that practically all the wheat sown in previous spring had grown up weeds rather than downward is unlikely to have the readers spilling their breakfast coffee into their laps in their excitement.

I do not believe it is true that people like to read about the misfortunes of others on the news. I think it is much more likely that we seek and find reassurance that not only has it not happened to us but that it has all along been most unlikely to.

Many years ago I read, or perhaps dreamed, an account of a couple who, convinced that death was only a conditioned reflex, determined to bring up their son in complete ignorance of its very existence, so that if their theory was right he would be immortal, as by the time of his death he would be so young that he would be unaffected by it. His children's books were scrutinized for references to the forbidden topic: plausible explanations were devised for the time the newspaper would spread his wings and he would not visit any more by his grandmother; certainly, he was allowed no newspapers. And the rulers in China seem to be attempting something as absurd as the experiment of these lunatics: not much less macabre, and equally certain to fail.

The suicide rate in the Soviet Union is among the highest in the world, though all the organs of the state combine to pretend that it simply does not exist. The lesson appeared not to have been learnt by China's rulers, so they will now have to learn the hard way; crime in that country will not diminish merely because the newspapers are forbidden to mention it nor will the incidence of corruption among Chinese officials or politicians be less because there is a general pretence that there isn't any.

Naturam expellat furca, tamen usque recurret. In Paradise, no doubt, nothing unpleasant ever happens. Here below, other standards obtain. When mosques or synagogues are built, a patch or a corner of the building is always left unfinished, perfection belongs only to Allah or Jehovah, and it is not for man to pretend to it. In China, however, though they do not believe they are already perfect, they believe that by telling each other that they are they will presently come to be. I never thought I would live to tell the Chinese, of all peoples, that this book Kipling told some of his contemporaries:

Here we sit in a branchy row, Thinking of beautiful things we know; Dreaming of deeds that we mean to do,

All complete, in a minute or two— Something noble and grand and good,

Won by merely wishing we could.

Now we're going to—never mind.

Brother, thy tail hangs down behind!

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LONDON DIARY

Where is that old spirit of fellowship?

The second scholarship to be given by the Airey Neave Memorial Trust, which perpetuates the memory of the former Northern Ireland Secretary killed by a terrorist bomb at Westminster, has been announced. It is for an international study into the freedom available in different countries for scientists to pursue their chosen subjects of research and teaching. The award of £30,000 has been made to three diligent workers for the cause of human rights: Paul Sieghart, chairman of Justice and the governor of the British Institute of Human Rights; Dr John Humphrey, FRCS, Professor of Immunology at London University; and Dr John Ziman, FRCS, Professor of Physics at Bristol University. They will appoint a research team to examine the extent which scientists in the 35 signatory nations to the Helsinki accord of 1975 are free to proceed unhindered with their work. It is an issue on which Professor Ziman has tried, he

feels unsuccessfully, to stir his colleagues at the Royal Society to protest at the treatment of fellow scientists in the Soviet Union and its satellites.

His appeal for a public vote of disapproval when eminent Communist block scientists are known to have been dismissed from their posts, discredited from working or teaching, prohibited from travelling, and so forth, appears to have attracted little support.

It is perhaps not surprising, therefore, that the Royal Society has refused a request from Professor Ziman for help in providing accommodation for the researchers who will undertake the study. The Society is unwilling to become too involved with a project of such a patently political nature.

Yet it is worth recalling similar circumstances more than 40 years ago when prominent scientists in Britain gave their support to the Academic Assistance Committee, which brought many eminent men to this country to escape Nazi tyranny in Europe.

That body is now the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning. And 45 of those scientists rescued by its predecessor are today Fellows of the Royal Society.

Centre aisle

Politician-watchers who are unable, or unwilling, to get up early enough to see the Gang of However Many. It is now, launch their new party at the Connaught Rooms at 8.45 a.m. tomorrow are assured of another sighting of the stars of the social democratic firmament at Vadham College, Oxford, on Saturday afternoon.

Shirley, Bill, David and Roy will be gathered there to celebrate the wedding of Alec McGivan, secretary of the Council for Social Democracy. "We fixed the date last November," McGivan told me yesterday, "thinking we would get it out of the way before the new party was launched; but events seem to have happened rather more quickly than we anticipated."

The rendezvous amid the dreaming spires is likely to be the first time that the members of the Gang will see each other after their high-speed dispersal round the country to attend provincial press conferences after tomorrow morning's launch.

McGivan, who was previously secretary of the Campaign for Labour Victory, and his bride, Miss Shirley Mayne, a social worker with the National Children's Home, have lost no time

in showing their political loyalties. "We have already filled in our joint membership application for the Social Democratic Party in our married name," he told me.

Another export success for Britain. A Lincolnshire turkey company yesterday dispatched a consignment of 140,000 parsons' noses, weighing 14 tons, to the Republic of Togo in West Africa, where they are considered a delicacy. "It takes a long time to collect a few tons; each turkey has only one," the firm's export manager explained.

Downbeat

Those MPs who use the underground passageway connecting the House with Westminster station and their Embankment offices have had the pleasure of being serenaded in recent days by a high class troupe of buskers, a trio of students playing chamber music.

When the Diary walked past, the flute, cello and viola were playing a Mozart sonatina. Between movements the minstrels explained that they would rather remain anonymous; their place of study might not be pleased if they were given



any publicity. "It supplements our grants they run out so quickly," explained the flute as quins rained from passers-by. They did reveal that they had received much appreciation and encouragement from passing MPs, including several shadow ministers, which sug-

gests to me that some of those MPs ought to be agitating for a change in the law to have buskers, who occupy all the best Underground passage sites, authorised.

In Paris, the whole thing is much better organized; a string quartet regularly and quite legally holds rehearsals on a station concourse to the delight of commuters.

London Transport tell me that busking in their stations is not quite a hanging offence, but it is a contravention of their bye-law no 22, part 1: "No person while upon the railway shall, to the annoyance of any other person, sing, perform on any musical or other instrument, or use any gramophone, record player, or portable wireless apparatus."

And if they can't catch them with that, there is always bye-law 22, part 3: "No person while upon the railway shall, for the purpose of soliciting, alms or reward." Last year, LT said, they brought 80 prosecutions for busking.

This seems churlish, but LT insist that many passengers are annoyed or embarrassed by the strolling players, and besides they can cause congestion at busy times. Well, they have never annoyed or embarrassed me; I would either give each Tube station an Arts

Council grant or make London Transport employ a band at every one.

Lagos lullaby

For a poet, President Shugu Shagari of Nigeria, just ending a visit to Britain, writes a dull book. But, as the President himself might observe in one of the well-tried maxims he is fond of employing, every cloud has a silver lining.

I therefore take pleasure in drawing *My Vision of Nigeria* to the attention of insomniac readers. For a mere £15 this volume, published to coincide with his visit, will provide hours of dreamless slumber.

The product has already undergone extensive somnolence testing in Nigeria (whose substantial print order will largely cover the production costs), being as it is an exhaustive collection of the President's speeches at sod-unings, plant openings and official dinners during the past 18 months.

It is a troubled mind indeed which will not feel the touch of light-fingered Hypnos lowering the eyelids at such phrases as: "At this point I want to say a few words on revenue allocation." President Shagari, who wears flowing robes and tinted glasses, cannot take a step

without at least two dozen rainiers trailing in his wake. But his courage is beyond question; not every politician would wish to see his speech at the opening of the new head office of the Agricultural and Cooperative Bank at Kaduna immortalized between hard covers.

Many of the speeches build down to a series of homilies on civic responsibility of the sort that schoolmasters often inflict on their charges at prize-givings. Indeed Shagari, who is a much more intelligent and serious man than this book would suggest, was a teacher before his rise to eminence.

The poetic element of a typical presidential speech tends along the lines of waters flowing under the bridge, national cakes that must be baked before they can be shared, and such like. But, as Shagari says, like to say, maybe it reads better in Hausa. As indeed would some of the efforts of our own Westminster orators.

Adjoining newshills seen in Bolton the other day: "£1 million warehouse blaze" and "Wandsworth manager under fire". I hope for his sake they beat Preston North End tonight.

Alan Hamilton

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Recession saps
German
confidence,
page 19

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Stock markets
FT Ind 511.7, up 10.5
FT Gilt 70.08, down 0.11

Sterling
\$2.2660, up 165 pts
Index 100.6, up 0.5

Dollar
Index 99.2, down 0.1
DM2.0815, down 57 pts

Gold
\$340.50, up \$18

Money
3 mth sterling 12 1/2-12 3/4
3 mth Euro 5 15-14 1/2
6 mth Euro 5 14 1/2-14 1/4

Cut in vehicle shipments to America vital, Japan told

From Frank Vogl
Washington, March 24

President Reagan has decided that a reduction in Japanese car exports to the United States is essential. He is believed to have told Mr. Masayoshi Ito, the Japanese minister of Economy, Planning and Commerce, that Japan should find a way to restrain car shipments to America.

that his government wants a clear signal from President Reagan.

Mr. Lewis said that it was his understanding that the Japanese authorities wanted to be told bluntly just what the United States Administration really wanted. He said it was in Japan's best interest to reduce their exports, and it was his personal view that the reduction should be 200,000 cars below last year's level.

The Administration is seeking to protect the ailing American car industry without formally approving protectionist measures, such as quotas or special import tariffs.

A cabinet level task force, headed by Mr. Drew Lewis, secretary of transportation, has concluded that swift action by Japan on voluntary restraints is vital if the United States Congress is to be stopped from passing tough protectionist legislation.

The White House has not yet decided on the desirable level of Japanese car imports. Last year, Japan exported 1.9 million cars to America. The Administration is hoping that the Japanese will take the initiative and set levels of their own, but Mr. Ito has indicated

Leaders of the American car industry are strongly in favour of restraints on the Japanese. It looks as if the Ford Motor Company might have losses in the first quarter of this year of around \$500m after a loss of \$1,500m last year. Chrysler is also likely to sustain substantial losses.

Each of the United States manufacturers is offering rebates to boost sales.

The White House expects that any deal struck with Japan will bring angry protests from the Europeans. However, officials suggested that countries such as Italy and France had long used administrative methods to block imports of Japanese cars.

Midlands courts Datsun

By Clifford Webb
Midland Industrial Correspondent

Five hundred business and civic leaders are meeting in Wolverhampton tomorrow in a campaign to attract the proposed £200m Datsun car plant to the West Midlands.

They will be told that the Government's recent refusal to grant the region assisted area status can be more than offset by siting the plant in the tradi-

tional heartland of the British car industry.

Senior officials preparing the West Midlands' submission to McKinsey, the management consultants acting for Nissan, believe that the availability of assisted area grants will be secondary.

They point out that both BL and Talbot, which had reluctantly opened plants in assisted areas, later closed down and fell back on more reliable bases in the West Midlands.

THF seeks vote on Savoy Hotel offer

By Philip Robinson

Sir Charles Forte's Trusthouse Forte empire is to seek leave from the High Court to call meetings of shareholders of the Savoy Hotel chain for which his group is bidding £58m. And in a statement yesterday, Sir Hugh Wontner, Savoy chairman, says he will fight it.

Trusthouse Forte's merchant bank adviser, S. G. Warburg, said the group has decided to seek leave to summon meetings of the "A" and "B" classes of Savoy shareholders under a Scheme of Arrangement using Section 206 of the 1948 Companies Act.

If they succeed, the Trusthouse Forte offer to each class of shareholder will be put to the vote. Sir Charles believes that, if he can get the required majority of "A" shareholders—15 per cent of the total votes—he will be able to manage the chain.

Sir Hugh says: "We shall do everything in our power to prevent THF taking advantage of the Section 206 Scheme device which, as THF proposes to use it, we regard as fundamentally objectionable."

THF's scheme is an attempt to circumvent the complicated shareholding structure which gives the Savoy board a declared 40 per cent of a two-vote carrying "B" class—it is estimated that 48 per cent of the total votes are in friendly hands—while only about 5 per cent of the 10-shares per vote "A" shares.

BPC may cut 2,000 more printing jobs

By David Hewson

BPC, Britain's largest printing company, faces possible plant closures and a further 2,000 redundancies in addition to the loss of 1,684 jobs agreed by the print unions in recent weeks.

None of the redundancies will be in the company's vital gravure plants, which were yesterday reported to be facing a £50m expansion and modernisation programme.

Print union leaders, who are due to meet Mr Robert Maxwell, BPC's new deputy chairman and chief executive, this week to discuss new demands, were unavailable for comment last night, but it is believed that they hold little hope of stemming the job losses.

The rescue operation organised by Mr Maxwell for BPC appears to have been underwritten by the group's banks on the understanding that an extension of the current workforce would be forthcoming. BPC lost about £6.5m in the last six months of last year.

If the latest round of redun-

Bank backs more pension fund legislation

By Margaret Stone

The Bank of England's city capital markets committee has come down firmly in favour of further legislation for pension funds—a stand not shared by the Government which has already made clear its own preference for voluntary improvements for the industry.

The committee, which has been set up by the Government, the committee has rejected most of the calls made by the Wilson Report for the tightening, through legislation, of both pension fund structure and the investment framework within which schemes operate.

But it does share some of the concern expressed by the Wilson Report

about the rights of pension scheme members (and pensioners) to participate in the management of their pension schemes, and their right to information which will enable them to judge whether or not the scheme is being properly administered.

The recommendations differ in several ways from those of the Wilson Report. In a statement issued yesterday, the committee said: "We do not recommend anything as comprehensive and complicated, and therefore as cumbersome, as a 'Pensions Scheme Act' analogous to the Companies Act."

Instead the committee wants legisla-

tion to give members and pensioners the right to appoint 50 per cent of the trustees, with the method of choosing them open to local agreement, subject to safeguards that no significant category is left unrepresented.

The proposed legislation would also require the trustees to notify members that they can have access to relevant information, as laid down in the industry's own code of practice.

Unlike the Wilson Report the committee thinks it would be "wasteful" for pension schemes to send reports and accounts to all members irrespective of whether or not they wanted them.

But the committee does pick up a

possibility suggested by the Wilson Report. It recommends provision for the appointment of an inspector (by the Occupational Pensions Board) where schemes are badly run. It also agrees that details about the extent of self investment should be revealed.

The National Association of Pension Funds, which has already set in motion the code of practice for giving members greater information, last night welcomed the committee's stand in preference to the Wilson Report. Mr Henry James, the director general, said: "They are more practicable and much more acceptable."

Financial Editor, page 19

Extra 4pc saving for bulk power users

By John Huxley

Industrial users should be able to cut their electricity bills by as much as 4 per cent by using a new flexible supply contract, details of which were given yesterday.

Taken with concessions being negotiated individually by area boards, total savings for bulk load users could amount to 8 per cent. This is the figure mentioned by the Government when it announced a £150m package aimed at reducing industry's energy bill earlier this month.

Ministers recognized that the new scheme would affect the supply industry's ability to manage financial resources, and adjusted its external financing limit of £210m for 1981/82 by £45m. The new scheme will be available to large users who can respond to reduced supply at notice as short as 15 minutes.

Central Electricity Generating Board chiefs said yesterday that the introduction of the new category represented a limited attempt to help hard-pressed customers. They stressed, however, that the measures were temporary.

At the same time, the board gave details of its bulk supply tariff, which may be affected by the 13 per cent higher for the early part of 1981/82, against 1980/81.

The CEBG emphasized that officials had faced considerable uncertainty in calculating the tariff, which may be affected by fuel cost adjustments.

Much depends upon the cost of the coal bought by the CEBG. Fuel accounted for about 60 per cent of the board's £6,000m costs this year which are expected to total more than £4,000m in 1981/82.

The CEBG has assumed that coal price rises will not exceed the rate of inflation—as agreed in a 1979 understanding allowing the board to buy 75 million tonnes a year from the National Coal Board.

However, it admits that its calculations could be upset if coal prices rise faster, despite the level of wage settlement reached with the National Union of Mineworkers in November.

Talks over coal purchases are continuing, but the CEBG has confirmed that it has not yet been told to stop imports, which this year will total about four million tonnes, one million tonnes less than originally expected. However, because of the demand for imports, it is likely to be only two million tonnes in 1981/82.

Uncertainty also exists over likely oil prices next year and the ability of nuclear power stations to meet a larger proportion of CEBG requirements.

Shipbuilders lifts pay offer to 6.8 per cent

By Donald Macintyre

British Shipbuilders yesterday offered its 70,000 manual workers and staff increases of 6.8 per cent in two days of negotiations which broke up last night without agreement.

The Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions is to seek further improvements in the terms of the offer, which had been raised from 5 per cent and would give the average skilled manual worker an estimated average of another 5.8 per cent.

The two sides will today use talks in London on a restructuring programme to set a date for the next meeting. Mr James Murray, leader of the union's negotiating team, said last night: "We have told them that the offer is not acceptable at the present time."

Talks had earlier come close to breakdown when a tentative offer outlined in private talks the previous night was withdrawn after the personal intervention of Mr Robert Atkinson, chairman of British Shipbuilders. Mr Atkinson is understood to have made it clear that he could not agree to a six-month moratorium on compulsory redundancies being included in the agreement, due to the effect on April 1. He said, however, that he wanted to discuss with the unions, in separate talks, moves towards a mutually acceptable job security formula for the industry.

Advisers to 'insolvent' company criticized

By Philip Robinson

A small merchant bank, three firms of accountants, a leading stockbroker firm and a stockbroker were severely criticized yesterday in a Department of Trade report on the collapse of Kina Holdings, which won the Queens Award for exports in 1975 by falsifying its figures.

The award was annulled last month, after Mr Edwin Hearn, the Kina managing director, was jailed for admitting gaining the award by deception. Kina Holdings, a public but unquoted company collapsed after a huge issue in October 1975 of new shares, including the M & G group and creditors nearly £13m.

Mr William Dennis QC and Mr Kenneth Webb, the inspectors say, in their report: "Our own investigations lead us to believe the company was never solvent. The remarkable thing is that it survived as long as it did."

Kina started life as Jagard Brothers, a small private company with an issued share capital of £500 which was dormant for six years. Towards the end of 1966 it was reactivated by Mr Edwin Hearn, its principal shareholder, then aged 43. The following year he was joined by Mr Michael Clouston.

Throughout most of the company's life they had with them Mr Thomas Allright who, the inspectors say, played an important part in the company's affairs.

The report says that Kina was beset permanently by chronic cash problems. "Normal and proper remedies were never sufficient and the company turned to various expedients, most of which involved cynical disregard for the truth in their operation."

In an attempt to raise more cash in 1970, Mr Hearn turned to Close Brothers, the merchant bankers. The inspectors conclude that the subsequent issue to raise money should not have taken place. They say they are not satisfied that Close Brothers did all they could before inviting their clients to invest.

They say the prospectus was misleading in several respects and that Harold Everett, Wand & Co, the company's auditors at the time, failed to achieve the requisite standards of care and diligence.

Kina's audit for the years from 1972 was carried out by Collins & Co (later Collins, Soanes & Co). "The startling inadequacy of these audits have to deal with in some detail," the inspectors say.

The inspectors say that reference must also be made to two directors whose presence at Kina contributed significantly to successive injections of finance.

Mr Lionel Arbis, a partner with Greene & Co, stock brokers, joined the group in 1971 and helped to negotiate progressive increases in overdraft facilities made available by Barclays.

On a more Latin American plane it decreed that exchange operations can be effected only by filling in a particular form and then failed to distribute more than a minimal quantity of the said forms. On an equally Latin American plane, a black market is trading dollars at premiums of up to 20 per cent.



Pickers outside the Lloyds London computer centre.

Lloyds staff in picket line clash

By Paul Routledge

Temper flared on a bank workers' picket line outside the Lloyds Bank computer centre in Blackfriars, London, yesterday. Striking members of the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union (BIFU) objected to the presence of non-union members of the rival non-TUC Clearing Bank Union crossing their picket line to go into work.

About 800 of Lloyds staff went on a 24-hour strike at the Savings, House of Commons, Centre. Mr David Evans, BIFU's senior London organizer, urged the employers to "come to their senses" before industrial action spread to the high street banks.

Cash cards. Action at the Lloyds computer centre failed to close any of the bank's automatic cashpoints in any part of the country, (writes Margaret Pagan). The cash points operated normally because sufficient staff from other unions crossed the picket line to monitor the terminals.

Security services were at first refused entry to deliver

cheques, but by the close of business Lloyds said they had cleared 80 per cent of the one and a half million cheques dealt with by the system each day.

The remaining cheques were stored in safe keeping for presentation this morning.

Other parts of London are being battered this week as part of the second stage of industrial action threatened by Bif.

Results of the Bif ballot on extending the action should be known by the end of the week and talks centre on work-to-rule, overtime bans and more one day strikes. There are plans to include Midland, National Westminster and William and Glyn's banks.

Spreading strike, page 18

Onshore licences awarded

By John Huxley

Three onshore oil production licences covering areas in Yorkshire, Humberside and Lincolnshire and Hampshire were awarded by Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, yesterday.

The licences authorize the holders to drill for and produce petroleum, if found. In each case they relate to areas previously covered by exploration licences, which permit oil and gas search only by means of a geological survey.

Pacific Basins (UK) has been awarded a licence covering 160

sq km, to the south-east of Leeds.

A group comprising BP Petroleum Development, British Gas Corporation and Candecca Resources has been granted an exploration licence for an area of 215.8 sq km, to the east of Scunthorpe.

A 95.9 sq km area west of Eastleigh, Hampshire, is covered in a licence granted to Amoco Petroleum and Ultramar Exploration.

Meanwhile, Phillips Petroleum UK has disclosed further encouraging details about its T-block in the North Sea.

Run on peso hits Argentine reserves

From Tony Emerson
Buenos Aires, March 24

With small investors fighting their way into exchange houses, the run against the Argentine peso has gathered an inexorable momentum. In six banking days, seven million dollars, or \$100m (£42.5m)—a fifth of her reserves.

Though the logical way of avoiding further losses would be a big devaluation of the peso—its dollar parity has increased at only a third of the rate of inflation—Dr Martinez

defending the present exchange policy. On a conventional plane it has raised interest offered on treasury notes and squeezed discount facilities to financial institutions.

On a more Latin American plane it decreed that exchange operations can be effected only by filling in a particular form and then failed to distribute more than a minimal quantity of the said forms. On an equally Latin American plane, a black market is trading dollars at premiums of up to 20 per cent.

His admirers praise his loyalty: his detractors point to the vast arbitrage created by monthly interest rates of over 8 per cent and monthly devaluation of 3 per cent.

The central bank, many of whose directors' connexions have been the chief beneficiaries of this arbitrage, has weighed in with its ploys for

Egyptian agriculture calls on ICI's rat-catching expertise

Britain's 'Pied Piper' goes to the Nile delta

One of the largest rat-catching contracts to be awarded since the city fathers of Hamelin employed the Pied Piper has been won by Imperial Chemical Industries, Britain's biggest manufacturing company.

Under a £1m contract with the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture, ICI will supply more than 900 tons of its new "one-feed" rodenticide, Klerat, and provide training for thousands of local workers in its use.

The rodent-control programme covers about one million acres of agricultural land in three Nile delta provinces, Gharbiya, Dakahlia and Damietta. Rats and mice cause widespread damage in the region in citrus and mango orchards, vineyards, cereal, cotton and sugarcane fields and in date palms.

In recent years the rat population in the Nile area has been increasing. Local rodent watchers attribute this in part to the building of the Aswan Dam and the consequent decline in the number of rats drowning in river floods.

Heavy crop losses were being incurred. But Mr John Mitchell, overseas marketing director for ICI's plant protection division, based at Barnstaple, Surrey, explained yesterday that the rat, also posed a serious threat to public health.

"Several babies had been bitten by rats, and the Egyptian ministers of health recognized that the rats were becoming a political problem."

ICI won the contract, which is believed to be the largest awarded for a rodent-control programme, against strong competition. West German and Swiss rat-catchers are busy at work in other provinces.

The group attributes its success partly to the efforts of its local office staffed by seven Egyptians, who have been supported by head office staff who visited the Nile on several occasions.

The contract may have been clinched after a highly successful demonstration at a country chicken farm, where several thousand rats and mice were bagged, Mr Mitchell said yesterday.

The first consignment of Klerat left England by ship for Alexandria earlier this month, only two weeks after the

contract was won. Several ICI scientists will spend about two months in Egypt explaining the use of the rat-killer to a workforce which Mr Mitchell says will run into thousands. Training films are being prepared and a fully equipped truck will also be sent out to assist in the campaign.

Mr Mitchell added that the new preparation was safe and easy to handle, as well as having a technical edge over rival, foreign rodenticides. However, the local workforce had to be trained to lay the bait in the right place.

ICI explained that control measures had not been entirely successful in the past either because the bait had to be eaten for several days or because it had such an unpleasant taste it deterred rodents from taking a lethal dose. Klerat succeeds because a single dose is sufficient.

Little Klerat is used so far in Britain. But it is a big seller already in Indonesia where it is used to control rats in rice fields, and in the United States, where it is used mainly in New York.

John Huxley

The Carnegie United Kingdom Trust

Abstract of Audited Accounts

For the Year Ended 31 December 1980

Funds and Provisions	£	£
Endowment Fund	3,851,605	
Reserve Fund	353,927	
Provision for grants authorised	754,327	
	4,959,859	
Reserve Fund		
As at 31 December 1979	221,910	
Income from investments, etc	605,056	
	826,966	
Less		
Non-grant expenditure	139,914	
Grants authorised (net)	323,125	
	463,039	
As at 31 December 1980	363,927	
Grants authorised in the quinquennium 1976-80	1,672,674	

GEOFFREY LORD, Secretary and Treasurer
Comely Park House, Dunfermline, Fife, KY12 7EJ
18 March 1981

PRICE CHANGES

Rises		
Ass News	13p to 25p	
Brit Chem Int	13p to 16p	
Glaxo Hldgs	12p to 25p	
Asmo	17p to 25p	
Peterson Zechins	12p to 52p	

Falls		
Harcrofts	5p to 65p	
Electron Croc	13p to 78p	
Twitell J	5p to 24p	
Joseph L	4p to 87p	
Myson	4p to 39p	

THE POUND		
Bank	Bank	Bank
buy	sell	buy
Australia \$	2.20	33.00
Austria Sch	82.25	78.25
Belgium F	2.73	2.84
Canada \$	15.50	14.70
Denmark Kr	9.57	9.07
Finland Mk	11.45	10.95
France Fr	4.90	4.65
Germany DM	116.50	110.50
Greece Dr	33.30	31.70
Hongkong \$	244.00	233.00
Italy Lit	496.00	471.00
Japan Yn	5.40	5.14
Netherlands Gld		

Bank	Bank	Bank
buy	sell	buy
Norway Kr	12.65	12.00
Portugal Esc	129.00	123.00
South Africa R	2.01	1.87
Spain Pta	165.50	156.50
Sweden Kr	10.79	10.24
Switzerland Fr	4.47	4.24
USA \$	2.31	2.40
Yugoslavia Dnr	81.50	76.00

Notes for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied yesterday by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Wall Street rally inspires equities

Prices rallied ahead yesterday as equities responded to the strong overnight performance on Wall Street. Dealers reported renewed demand for most of the big names, but the continued shortage of stock in many sectors exaggerated price movements.

Jobbers, despite the tough time they have had recently, still believe the market has some way to go but are cautious in the long run. Sentiment was further boosted by optimistic remarks about the recession from Mr Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary to the Treasury. As a result, fears about the escalating civil servants dispute and the latest unemployment figures were again discounted for the time being.

Building shares were again a notable feature but stock was in short supply. Electricals recovered from Monday's setback and gold shares saw another firm session on the back of the bullion price, up \$18 at \$540.50 an ounce.

Business after hours again took off with Wall Street showing a seven-point lead after the first hour of trading. So the FT Index, which had risen 4.7 at 3 pm closed 10.5 higher at 311.7, a rise on the account of 34.5.

Government securities looked neglected with prices showing little movement ahead of Friday's launch of the new government indexed-linked stock.

Jobs said the market was displaying a slightly over-bought look but there were few fears that the new stock would prove unpopular. By the close prices in London were generally unchanged on the day while in shorts falls extended to around 15/16.

Goode Durrant & Murray reached a new high of 38p yesterday on the back of rumours that a 50p share bid was on the way for the finance and property development group. But Mr Lionel Robinson, chairman, said there was substance behind the speculation.

Leading industrials enjoyed a better time with after hours business finding solid support for such issues as Glaxo, 12p higher at 288p ahead of figures next month, and Beecham, 5p stronger at 177p. Overseas buyers again came in for Dunlop, 3p firmer at 68p as an estimated 500,000 shares were picked up. ICI rose 2p to 238p, Unilever 8p to 503p, Hawker Siddeley 4p to 300p, GKN 7p to 147p and Lucas Industries 2p to 165p, while Bowater leapt 12p to 230p in consideration of its recent disposal news.

News of a major find by Phillips Petroleum and full-year figures provided Lasso with a hectic time. The shares opened at 610p on news of the find, in which it has a stake, and

rallied to 630p after the figures. But the omission of an interim dividend saw the shares retreat to 615p before closing at 619p, a net rise on the day of 17p.

Elsewhere in oils, the strong performance on Wall Street resulted in increased demand for most of the majors. BP rallied 6p to 384p, Shell 2p to 392p, and B.P. 2p to 298p. B.P. 2p to 298p and B.P. 2p to 298p. B.P. 2p to 298p and B.P. 2p to 298p.

Better than expected figures lifted Smith & Nephew 3p to a new high of 1101p with similar performance helping Watmoughs 18p to 203p and Johnson Group Cleaners 6p to 186p. A free share dividend sweetened Brent Chemicals International's shares rebounding 14p to 167p.

Dealers showed their approval for trading statements from United Newspapers, up 2p to 195p, British Car Auction, up 1p to 77p and Stothert & Pitt, 5p stronger at 115p. However, the downturn at Ricardo Engineering wiped 32p from the shares at 553p and the loss and a passed dividend left Bridport-Gundry 3p lower at 20p.

Further reflection on recent figures added 12p to Paterson Zochonis at 523p and 31p to Cattle's Holdings at 31p. In

Latest results

Company	£m Sales	£m Profit	Dividend	Pay date	Year's total
Brent Chemicals (F)	22.1(24.7)	2.3(3.0)	2.25(2.98)	24/4	3.0(3.35)
Bridport-Gundry (F)	6.2(7.1)	0.3(0.3)	—	—	—
British Car (F)	103.7(83.9)	1.2(1.1)	1.5(1.0)	31/7	(2.76)
Equity & Law (F)	—	—	9.7(1)	12/11	12(11)
Johnson Group (F)	41.8(35.2)	4.0(4.4)	2.3(2.1)	2/4	2.9(2.4)
Keep Inv (F)	—	0.5(1.1)	0.5(1.1)	15/3	0.3(0.1)
Lasso (F)	10(16.3)	0.7(0.68)	0.3(0.2)	15/3	0.3(0.1)
Lea Stone (F)	—	0.5(1.1)	0.5(1.1)	15/3	0.3(0.1)
Pike Holdings (F)	3.8(4.1)	0.4(0.01)	2.2(0.64)	11/11	—
Ricardo Eng (F)	—	0.4(0.55)	0.4(0.55)	15/4	—
Smith & Nephew (F)	213.5(204.5)	24.3(22.2)	2.6(2.4)	27/5	3.3(3.65)
Stothert & Pitt (F)	—	0.5(1.1)	0.5(1.1)	15/3	0.3(0.1)
United Newspapers (F)	76.5(59.8)	4.5(3.19)	7.5(15)	12/24	—
Watmoughs (F)	15.0(13.0)	1.7(1.5)	3.7(3.0)	30/4	5.2(4.3)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown at net and earnings are net. — Net, — Loss.

Briefly

Local authority bonds: Interest rate on this week's issue is 12.1 per cent. Issue price is 100 (last week 121, per cent at 100).
Keep Investment Trust: Revenue for 1980 £123,500. Net revenue £52,000 after tax of £47,000. EPS 0.52p. Final 0.24p making 0.88p.
Megitt Holdings: Mr J. D. Tyler, chairman, says activity in machine tool and other industries remains at a very low level and board thinks that this is likely to remain for much of 1981. Chairman believes that interim figures will make dismal readings.

Love Investment Trust: Dividend for year to February 28, 4.3p (1979 4.1p). Net revenue £732,000 (£687,500). Earnings per income share 4.51p (4.27p). Nav per income share 51.25p (£51.94p) and per capital share 1.43p (1.43p).
Glasgow Picture House: Offer by Glasgow Photo Playhouse is declared unconditional. Acceptances received in respect of 2,419 shares. This, with shares already held, makes total 12,000 shares (59.9 per cent).
Manson Finance Trust has formed an insurance broking subsidiary Manson and Moody which, as well as selling insurance, will also be offering a full broking service including life insurance and pensions.

Garnar Booth offers for Booth (International Holdings) shares not already owned have been declared unconditional and remain open. The offer, which has been changed to Garnar Booth, Acceptances received in respect of 328m Booth shares (82.17 per cent). Garnar now owns or controls 3.88m shares (197 per cent).
Harrisons and Crossfield: Kuwait Investment Office acquired on March 16 an interest in a further 30,000 shares, making as at that date a total interest in 5.91m shares (10.12 per cent).
Canada Permanent Mortgage Corporation based in Toronto, has acquired outstanding 49 per cent minority in its United Kingdom affiliate, Canada Permanent Trust Company (UK). Simultaneously, Canadian parent has injected £1,350m of new capital into United Kingdom company, thereby raising the issued capital from £1.10m to £2.45m.

This advertisement is issued in connection with the Placing by Tring Hall Securities Limited of 1,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 20p each at 30p per Share in Euroflame Holdings p.l.c. ("the Company").

Application has been made for grant of permission to deal in the Unlisted Securities Market on The Stock Exchange in the Ordinary Shares of the Company. It is emphasised that no application has been made for these securities to be admitted to listing.

Euroflame Holdings p.l.c.

(Incorporated under the Companies Acts 1948 to 1987)
Registered Number 1244749

Authorised	Share Capital	Issued or to be issued and fully paid
£	£	£
1,999,400	9,997,000 Ordinary Shares of 20p each	613,333.20
600	3,000 Convertible Deferred Shares of 20p each	600.00
2,000,000		613,933.20

Full information regarding Euroflame Holdings p.l.c. is contained in the Extel Statistical Services and in a Prospectus dated 25th March, 1981 copies of which may be obtained from:—

Tring Hall Securities Ltd, Sternberg, Thomas Clarke & Co, Salisbury House, London Wall, London EC2M 8RU

Payout up as Brent profits dip

The United Kingdom recession has left its mark on Brent Chemicals International, the industrial chemicals group. In spite of a 12 per cent rise in turnover to £32.1m, pretax profits have fallen from £3.4m to £2.3m and reduced earnings per share from 8.9p to 7.7p.

Nevertheless, the board has proposed a final dividend of 3.2p gross against 2.34p making a total of 4.28p. In addition shareholders will receive a free share dividend on a one-for-two basis.

Mr Harry Holden, chairman, said that the group remained in a strong financial position and that the continued recession, while it had reduced the fall off in demand, has hit the automotive, packaging and brewing interests. Overheads have been reduced and there have been some redundancies, through natural wastage, among its 1,050 workforce.

BCA up 7pc despite Attwood loss

By Rosemary Unsworth
British Car Auction Group's interim profits showed a 7 per cent rise in spite of losses from Attwood Garages, acquired at the end of last year, and a reduced contribution from the gas appliance subsidiary.

Pretax profits rose from £1.1m to £1.2m while group turnover from auctions advanced from £76.7m to £94.7m in the six months to January 31. Profits from the auction side increased from £650,000 to £900,000 this time, which reflected an improvement in commissions received as well as an increase in the average price of vehicles sold, from £700 to £1,100.

In addition the group is planning to raise its 65 auction entry fee to £10 shortly, which will come through in the second half. The chairman, Mr David Wickins, is expecting the group to produce £2.8m pretax profit by the year end against last year's £2.6m and the shares gained 1p to 77p.

BCA earned £4m in commission compared with £3.3m in the first half of 1979 while other sales represented £4.9m against £3.8m.

Endeavour takes 20pc stake in Northern Mining

By Michael Prest
Mining Correspondent
Endeavour Resources, the mining and exploration company, has taken a 20 per cent stake in Northern Mining.

It is understood that the stake is intended to block the possible purchase of a significant interest in Northern by National Mutual Life Assurance Company, which already holds about 10 per cent of Northern. The main attraction of Northern is its 5 per cent holding in the Ashton diamond joint venture, led by Goncz Rintoro of Australia. It is widely felt in Australia that Ashton will announce plans to go ahead with the venture later this year.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Adults (adjusted)	% of all employees	Unemployed (adjusted)
1979	1.21	6.1
1980	1.25	6.2
1981	1.29	6.3
1982	1.33	6.4
1983	1.37	6.5
1984	1.41	6.6
1985	1.45	6.7
1986	1.49	6.8
1987	1.53	6.9
1988	1.57	7.0
1989	1.61	7.1
1990	1.65	7.2
1991	1.69	7.3
1992	1.73	7.4
1993	1.77	7.5
1994	1.81	7.6
1995	1.85	7.7
1996	1.89	7.8
1997	1.93	7.9
1998	1.97	8.0
1999	2.01	8.1
2000	2.05	8.2
2001	2.09	8.3
2002	2.13	8.4
2003	2.17	8.5
2004	2.21	8.6
2005	2.25	8.7
2006	2.29	8.8
2007	2.33	8.9
2008	2.37	9.0
2009	2.41	9.1
2010	2.45	9.2
2011	2.49	9.3
2012	2.53	9.4
2013	2.57	9.5
2014	2.61	9.6
2015	2.65	9.7
2016	2.69	9.8
2017	2.73	9.9
2018	2.77	10.0
2019	2.81	10.1
2020	2.85	10.2
2021	2.89	10.3
2022	2.93	10.4
2023	2.97	10.5
2024	3.01	10.6
2025	3.05	10.7
2026	3.09	10.8
2027	3.13	10.9
2028	3.17	11.0
2029	3.21	11.1
2030	3.25	11.2
2031	3.29	11.3
2032	3.33	11.4
2033	3.37	11.5
2034	3.41	11.6
2035	3.45	11.7
2036	3.49	11.8
2037	3.53	11.9
2038	3.57	12.0
2039	3.61	12.1
2040	3.65	12.2
2041	3.69	12.3
2042	3.73	12.4
2043	3.77	12.5
2044	3.81	12.6
2045	3.85	12.7
2046	3.89	12.8
2047	3.93	12.9
2048	3.97	13.0
2049	4.01	13.1
2050	4.05	13.2
2051	4.09	13.3
2052	4.13	13.4
2053	4.17	13.5
2054	4.21	13.6
2055	4.25	13.7
2056	4.29	13.8
2057	4.33	13.9
2058	4.37	14.0
2059	4.41	14.1
2060	4.45	14.2
2061	4.49	14.3
2062	4.53	14.4
2063	4.57	14.5
2064	4.61	14.6
2065	4.65	14.7
2066	4.69	14.8
2067	4.73	14.9
2068	4.77	15.0
2069	4.81	15.1
2070	4.85	15.2
2071	4.89	15.3
2072	4.93	15.4
2073	4.97	15.5
2074	5.01	15.6
2075	5.05	15.7
2076	5.09	15.8
2077	5.13	15.9
2078	5.17	16.0
2079	5.21	16.1
2080	5.25	16.2
2081	5.29	16.3
2082	5.33	16.4
2083	5.37	16.5
2084	5.41	16.6
2085	5.45	16.7
2086	5.49	16.8
2087	5.53	16.9
2088	5.57	17.0
2089	5.61	17.1
2090	5.65	17.2
2091	5.69	17.3
2092	5.73	17.4
2093	5.77	17.5
2094	5.81	17.6
2095	5.85	17.7
2096	5.89	17.8
2097	5.93	17.9
2098	5.97	18.0
2099	6.01	18.1
2100	6.05	18.2

REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT

Region	Adults (adjusted)	% of all employees	Unemployed (adjusted)
South East	51.8	10.4	6.8
East Anglia	57.9	11.6	8.0
South West	45.9	9.3	12.9
West Midlands	270.1	10.8	11.6
East Midlands	144.8	9.3	9.0
Yorkshire & the Humber	218.7	10.4	10.4
North West	322.0	10.2	11.9
North	172.4	12.3	12.9
Wales	138.8	10.3	12.9
Scotland	284.6	10.6	11.7
Britain	2,225.0	10.7	12.7
N Ireland	94.8	11.8	18.4
UK	2,320.8	10.7	9.9



Mr David Wickins, chairman of British Car Auction Group.

But Readygas, the propane and butane gas and appliance retailer in the West Midlands, was hit by the mild winter and the recession.

"Sales were down in the first six months and profits were £62,000 compared with £216,000 last year," Mr David Wickins, the chairman, said. But he added that the subsidiary would break even by the end of the year.

Watmoughs notches up another record year

By Our Financial Staff
Shares of quality colour printers, publishers and engravers Watmoughs (Holdings), jumped 40p to a new 12-month high of 203p yesterday as the group reported its fifth consecutive year of record profits.

The group, which prints the Empire Stores mail order catalogue, Management Today, Illustrated London News and has the contract from Haymarket for marketing and engineering today, increased pretax profits for 1980 by 14 per cent to £1.7m. Turnover rose from £13m to £15m.

Pretax profits for the second half of 1979 were £1.1m, £1m, but Mr Patrick Wainwright, chairman, was reluctant to make predictions about this year. He said that the first

Business appointments

Mr Martin Harris, deputy chairman of Rectis of Office Systems, has been elected a non-executive director of the De La Rue Company. He also is a director of National Westminster Bank, County Bank, Equity & Law, and James, Sir Henry Chilver has retired from the board.

Johnson Group raises dividend

By Michael Prest
Johnson Group Cleaners, the Liverpool-based chain of dry cleaning shops, has reported pretax 1980 profits of £4.04m, almost exactly the same as in 1979. But the final dividend has been raised to 7.14p gross, giving a total payout of 10p gross for the whole year, an increase of 13 per cent.

Dry cleaning, for which the company has 684 outlets around the country taking 22 per cent of the market, suffered a slight fall in trading profit from £3.44m to £3.33m. But textile rental, specializing in renting out towels, dryers and other equipment, virtually doubled its trading profit to £1.24m.

Mr John Crockett, the chairman, says that the increase in rental income is largely attributable to the heavy invest-

ment in this sector over the past seven years. It enabled the company to lift trading profit from £4.68m to £5.12m. But dry cleaning margins remain under pressure from stiff competition and labour and fuel costs. This is the main reason for profits falling to £6.6m from £8.1m in 1979.

After profits were also affected by a slightly higher tax charge of £598,000 against £410,000, despite allowance for capital spending.

Traditional options saw calls made in Birmid at 151p, Mober at 3p and Wm Press at 31p.

year although there are no industrial heating sales in the summer. The company is moving into the rent rental market which should improve its contribution.

Coin machines increased profits from £130,000 to £175,000 helped by the changes in the payout from machines. The rental caravan operation's performance was down and it contributed £100,000, while Attwoods, in which BCA has 58 per cent control lost £40,000. But Mr Wickens said that the division would be back in profit by the year end. Meanwhile, two of its properties are on the market and new management has been installed.

The interim dividend will be raised from 1.43p gross to 2.14p and the final is expected to be at least 2.43p which should give a 16 per cent increase at 4.57p on last year's total of 3.94p.

BCA is also auctioning Ford Motor group's own cars to holders of Ford credit cards, which it is estimated will produce £36,000 profit in the next six months.

Hollas to buy Town and County for £2m

Hollas Group has conditionally agreed to acquire Town and County Developments (Wembley) for £2.18m in shares which will be placed.

Town and County, which has never traded, will at completion have net assets of £2m consisting entirely of cash. This cash will be used to expand and improve the group's warehousing and distribution facilities.

London Shop ahead for half year

Pretax profits at London Shop Property Trust rose from £252,000 to £450,000 for the half year to October 31 on turnover of £999,000 against £950,000. Earnings a share were 2.38p against 1.56p.

The board says that the effect of the programme of property sales is now showing through the accounts and that the increase in pretax profits arises largely from the reduction in the net interest payable.

A purchase of more than 15 per cent of the equity up to 29.9 per cent is allowed under Takeover Panel rules if a holding comes from one shareholder and is sold to a single buyer.

United Newspapers profit nearly halved to £4.5m

By Margaret Pagano
Industrial disputes and the recession have left United Newspapers, publishers of The Yorkshire Post, Punch and a string of other regional papers, with pretax profits nearly halved to £4.53m in the year to December.

After a strong start last year the group was first hit by industrial action by the National Graphical Association, estimated to have cost £2m. Once trading was resumed, profits were severely affected by the steep fall in employment advertising which continued throughout the year. Pretax profits of £4.53m compare with £8.2m last

ACCOUNT DAYS : Dealings Began, March 16. Dealings End, March 27. \S Contango Day, March 30. Settlement Day, April 6
 \S Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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